



# COVID-19 Precautions at Minnesota Farmers' Markets as of April 1, 2021

Summary of April 5, 2021 MDA and MDLI presentation at MFMA's Monthly Open Forum

Minnesota farmers' markets are considered "essential" and thus have our own 'exclusion' in the Governor's executive orders. Markets should update your COVID-19 Preparedness Plans accordingly.

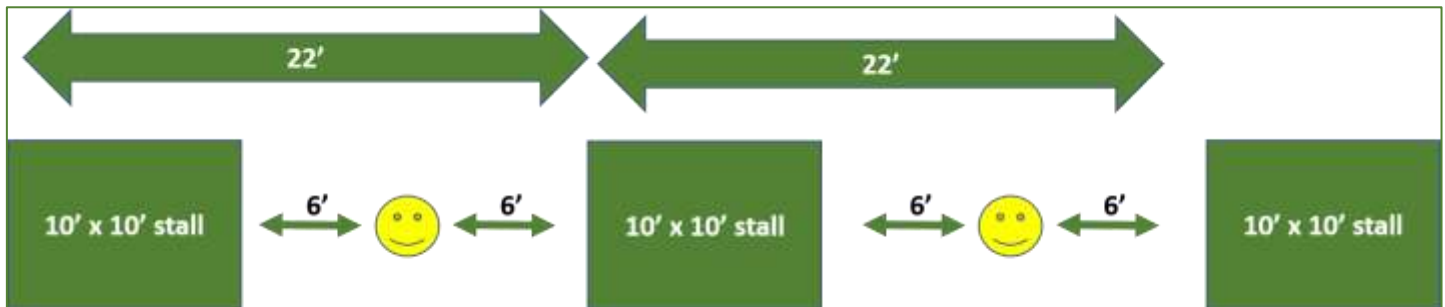
## BASIC FARMERS' MARKET

If your farmers' market is operating as a basic farmers' market, where your customers stop and shop for products, no lingering or gathering, no onsite food consumption (including no food samples) then there is no capacity cap for people at your market; plus:

Indoor Farmers' Market	Outdoor Farmers' Market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No capacity limits               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So, no need to count people (as long as 6' social distancing can be maintained)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shoppers have to wear masks</li> <li>Workers (vendors, market staff / volunteers / etc.) have to wear masks</li> <li>6' social distancing must be maintained</li> <li>Handwashing stations and sanitizers required</li> <li>Market Info Booth (SNAP machine, etc.) is allowed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No capacity limits               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So, no need to count people (as long as 6' social distancing can be maintained)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Shoppers Do Not have to wear masks</li> <li>Workers (vendors, market staff / volunteers / etc.) only have to wear masks IF 6' social distancing cannot be maintained from others</li> <li>6' social distancing must be maintained</li> <li>Handwashing stations and sanitizers required</li> <li>Market Info Booth (SNAP machine, etc.) is allowed</li> </ul>

### Maintaining 6' Social Distancing Between Stalls

For planning purposes, in order to keep 6' social distancing between stalls and customers, plan on 22' for each 10' stall. If your stalls are 8', then adjust to 20 feet.



### Power of Produce, PoP+, etc.

All retail shopping activities like this, are allowed, as long as they do not encourage the shoppers to gather and linger.

### Craft Vendors, etc.

As long as your location can physically handle non-food vendors, these vendors can sell at your market again.

## **FARMERS' MARKETS as VENUES**

If your market wants to add back in "Recreational" or "Entertainment" activities, then your market will be considered a "Venue," and will need to implement more precautions. Examples of "Recreational" or "Entertainment" activities: music, sampling, onsite food consumption, food demos, clowns making balloon shapes, etc.

### **Venue Face Coverings**

- Indoor venues: face masks are required by all
- Outdoor venues: face masks are required by all
- For medical reasons only, if a person cannot wear a mask, they have to wear a face shield

### **Venue Capacity Limits**

- Use the capacity calculator: <https://staysafe.mn.gov/capacity-calculator/>
- Must use "rated occupant capacity"
  - If no rated occupant capacity, use 113 sq. ft. per person
  - E.g., market area is 400' x 300' = 120,000' / 113 = 1,061 maximum capacity (at one time)

### **Venue Onsite Food Consumption**

- Onsite food consumption includes food sampling.
- Must have a designated seating area.
- Everyone must be seated whenever eating or drinking.
  - Assigned seating accommodation; market personnel or vendor must escort eaters to their assigned table.
- Groups of 6 allowed, must be seated 6' from others.
- Eating area does not need to be monitored by market personnel.
- Reservations are not required.
- Tables cleaned and sanitized as needed in normal eateries.

### **Venue Music**

- Live entertainment is only permitted by performers who are designated by the venue.
- Separation of at least 12' must be maintained between the 'performers' and 'patrons.'
- Designated performance area.
- Physical distance of at least 12'.
- Performers must remain within the designated performance area.
- No interaction between performers and patrons.

### **Hybrid Farmers' Market and Venue**

If your farmers' market space is shared with another activity, like an informational trade show, whether indoors or outdoors, your farmers' market must follow all "Venue" requirements.

### **Adding a massage chair, other personal care services**

- Massage therapist must follow the requirements for "Personal Care Services"
- Social distancing of at least 6' from all other persons.
- Face coverings required by both worker and customer.
- Face covering and face-shield must be worn by worker if face covering not worn by customer.

### **Cooking Demos**

Cooking demos are allowed, as long as the market can set up the viewing area with specific markings to keep the shoppers at least 6' apart while watching the cooking demo.