



COVID+ Response Guide for Farmers Markets

Even with best practices in place, markets may have to respond to a positive COVID-19 test for a staff, vendor, or volunteer. Consider these guidelines in forming a response plan.

In the event that market staff, vendors, or volunteers test positive for COVID-19:

1. Consult your local health department. Health officials can provide guidance on next steps, including proposed timelines for self-isolating cleaning procedures, and recommended closures. Be prepared to share an outline of public health measures you have in place at the market with health department officials.
2. Consult the affected individual/s to assure they are working with the health department on contact tracing, determining if they may have had close contact with anyone at the market, such as any contact less than six feet apart, interactions without a mask, or anyone in contact with the same surfaces, etc. Additional guidance for food producers is [available here](#).
3. Inform market staff, vendors, and volunteers about the situation. Communicate health department recommendations and any changes to the market's operating procedures and schedule. Follow up with email or other written communication to outline changes and next steps. **IMPORTANT:** Maintain the confidentiality of the affected individual/s, unless you have permission to share their identities.
4. Consider making a public statement via newsletter, website, and/or social media (see sample statements on the following page). Share details about precautions that were being taken (for example, if the individual/s wore masks and maintained social distances while at market) and your response, such as any additional precautions or changes to business hours or procedures. **NOTE:** Being transparent with your community is important, but it's best to delay a public statement until information is confirmed and a response plan is in place.

Sample public statements:

A vendor selling at [MARKET] on [DATE] has since tested positive for COVID-19. The vendor, who is asymptomatic, maintained social distances during the market, wore a mask, and used touch-free payments. There is low risk of exposure to anyone in attendance at the market. According to the CDC coronaviruses have poor survivability on surfaces and therefore there is very low risk of spread from food products or packaging. The affected vendor as well as household members will quarantine for two weeks. The market will remain in operation with our next market on [DATE]. The following precautions will continue to be in effect:

- thorough sanitizing of all equipment during and after each market
- requiring all vendors and shoppers to wear masks
- limiting the number of people in the market area at one time
- requiring all vendors to use touch-free payment methods

One of our staff members at [MARKET] has tested positive for COVID-19. The individual has been in quarantine since [developing symptoms/receiving a positive test] but was working at market two weeks ago. The individual wore a mask and maintained social distance, and there is low risk of exposure to anyone in attendance at the market. Out of an abundance of caution, staff members who worked in physical proximity with the individual have been tested and will self-isolate for two weeks regardless of the results. The market will be closed this week, but will return [DATE]. The following precautions will continue to be in effect:

- thorough sanitizing of all equipment during and after each market
- requiring all vendors and shoppers to wear masks
- limiting the number of people in the market area at one time
- requiring all vendors to use touch-free payment methods