



Visit us at [www.downtownyakimafarmersmarket.com](http://www.downtownyakimafarmersmarket.com) and [subscribe to our monthly email](#) for updates about our farmers markets, to get in touch, and for opportunities to support our local food system.

Do you have a question? We want to answer it. Please comment or message us on our social media channels or email [farmersmarket@downtownyakima.com](mailto:farmersmarket@downtownyakima.com).  
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**In this document, you will find FAQs regarding:**

- Health Screenings
- Social Distancing
- Sanitation
- Food Access
- General Inquiry

## **HEALTH SCREENINGS**

**Q: How will the farmers markets respond if a market worker is diagnosed with COVID-19?**

**A:**

- We will follow the Department of Health guidelines on quarantine and isolation if staff or vendors have COVID-19 symptoms or are exposed to someone who is sick.
- A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions for 7 days after symptoms begin, or until 72 hours after fever is gone, whichever is longer.
- Any staff or vendor who have been in close contact with the sick person, but who are not presently sick, should not go to work for 14 days after their last close contact, and quarantine themselves. They should watch for symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. Close contact includes being within 6 feet of a sick person with COVID-19 for about 10 minutes.

**Q: How will you ensure all market staff and volunteers are screened for COVID-19?**

**A:**

- Staff and volunteers will be required to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All staff and volunteers are required to immediately report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to their immediate Volunteer Coordinator and to isolate at home.
- Market staff will take their own temperature the day prior to market shifts and self-assess for symptoms.
- If any staff member reports or exhibits symptoms during a shift, they will be immediately be asked to leave, call their doctor, and self-quarantine for at least 14 days.

**Q: How will you ensure all vendors are screened for COVID-19 symptoms?**

**A:**

- Our staff and volunteers will be screening vendors as they enter the market footprint based on DOH criteria. Vendors exhibiting symptoms or who have had recent exposure will not be permitted on the premises.
- All vendors will be reminded to stay home if they are sick, exhibiting symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath), or have knowingly been directly exposed to COVID-19. All vendors are required to report any symptoms, known exposure to anyone with a confirmed case of COVID, or fever over 100.4F to the Market Manager.
- We will send Weekly Market Bulletins (via email) to all vendors containing up to date reminders and safety protocol.
- We will encourage vendors in high risk categories to send alternate staff so they can stay at home. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, and/or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant

**Q: Will customers who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 be excluded from the market?**

**A:**

- There will be signs with recommendations from the CDC and/or DOH posted at market entrances and Info Booth. Prior to the market we will communicate the shopper behavior expected- including staying home if feeling ill- in our [DAY newsletter](#) and across [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). Signage at the market will also indicate that we reserve

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

the right to ask customers, staff, volunteers and vendors to leave the market if they are experiencing symptoms.

- Via the channels listed above, we will encourage customers who fall in any of the CDC's high-risk categories to stay at home. High-risk includes people:
  - Over the age of 60
  - With underlying health conditions including heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
  - With weakened immune systems
  - Who are pregnant

## **SOCIAL DISTANCING**

### **Q: What is the social distancing protocol at the farmers markets?**

**A:**

- By limiting the number of shoppers to 3 per booth through controlled perimeters, and entry and exit points.
  - Entrance will be on Yakima Ave while the exit will be at Chestnut Ave.
- By requiring 6 feet distance in front of the entrance/register at each booth.
- By encouraging customers to send just one member per household and shop quickly in the market. Know before you go- make a shopping list!
- Our staff/volunteers will monitor the crowds and remind customers to maintain 6 feet of distance.
- Chalk demarcation lines will be placed at six-foot intervals leading up to the market entrance. If markets are at capacity and customers are waiting, market staff will remind them to maintain distance by waiting behind the chalk lines.

### **Q: How will you enforce social distancing at the farmers market?**

**A:**

- Our staff and volunteers will share the responsibility of monitoring space in the market, and reminding customers and/or vendors to adhere to proper distancing requirements.
- If a customer, vendor, or staff receives 2 verbal warnings, they will be asked to immediately leave the market.
- If a customer, vendor, or staff member refuses to comply with the requirements, they will be asked to leave the market in order to maintain safety for everyone else.

### **Q: How will vendors maintain recommended distance during set up and break down?**

**A:**

- We will require that vendors bring minimal staff (1 to 2). All vendors will be required to display minimal product on tables, and place pre-ordered goods in a station or truck behind them.
- Vendor booths will be spaced 10 feet apart, creating enough distance for 1 to 2 shoppers at a time.

## **SANITATION**

**Q: How will the farmers markets ensure sanitation at the markets?**

**A:**

- All vendors, staff and volunteers must wear protective gloves, separate cash and product handling, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.
- Surfaces and 'high touch' items such as tables, POS terminals, cash boxes, etc. will be sanitized regularly.
- Our market staff/volunteers will conduct regular and ongoing checks for handwashing stations, proper bleach solutions, and sanitizing supplies in addition to our regular food safety controls.
- All staff/volunteers processing SNAP/EBT at the Information Booth will be required to wear protective gloves and conduct regular handwashing.
- Vendor and Info Booth will be required to have a hand washing station.

**Q: Will there be handwashing stations available to the public?**

**A:**

- Yes! Hand sanitation stations will be provided at throughout the market.

**Q: Will customers be able to handle goods?**

**A:**

- The public will not be permitted to touch any items. Vendors will select items for customers at the customer's request.

**Q: Will customers be required to wear facemasks?**

**A:**

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

- Everyone will be strongly encouraged to wear face masks.

**Q: What type of protective equipment will vendors and your staff use throughout the duration of the market?**

**A:**

- All vendors and staff/volunteers will be strongly encouraged to wear protective gloves, separate cash and product handling, and ensure regular and proper handwashing.
- All vendors, vendor staff, DYFM staff and volunteers are encouraged to wear face masks throughout the duration of the market.

**Q: Will dogs be allowed?**

**A:**

- We love a good market dog, but in order to maintain the quick and easy flow of customers through market, as well as social distancing, dogs will not be allowed in the market footprint unless it is a service animal.

**Q: Will customers be able to bring their own reusable bag?**

**A:**

- We encourage it! However, vendors will not be permitted to fill bags for you, that will be the shopper's responsibility.

## **FOOD ACCESS**

**Q: Will there still be food access options at the market?**

**A:**

- YES! As usual, you can visit the Information Booth to double your SNAP benefits for Market Bucks to spend at the farmers market.

## **GENERAL INQUIRIES**

**Q: Can I busk?**

**A:**

- In order to maintain social distancing and the flow of shoppers through the market, we unfortunately have to suspend busking until further notice.

**Q: Will the market be in its normal location and operating at the usual time?**

**A:**

- The Market will be exactly where it took place last year (in front of the Capitol Theater) and with Senior hour from 9 a.m. – 10 a.m. and general entry from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- If you need a reminder, market location in Downtown Yakima at 22 S 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Yakima, WA 98901.

**Q: Will vendors be accepting cash?**

**A:**

- Yes, and they will be following Health Department guidelines for safely handling bills.

**Q: Why are the farmers markets allowed to operate?**

**A:**

- Farmers markets have been deemed essential infrastructure by Governor Jay Inslee. Agriculture is the most essential act, and the farmers markets serve as the essential link between farmers and eaters.

**Q: How can I help make the farmers markets a success?**

**A:**

- During your market visit:
  - Please be alert! The market has major modifications and there are new signs to help you move through the market.
  - Do not touch the products, the vendors will help you.
  - Do not consume hot prepared foods in the market footprint. Take home to enjoy!
  - Maintain 6 feet of space whenever possible. This is crucial! Look for physical cues like tape, chalk, and signs all around you as a reminder.
  - Shop quickly and efficiently. This isn't the time to chat. Big smiles welcome!

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, and face in general.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then dispose of it.
- Wear a facemask if you wish.

While farmers markets are often social spaces, it is important not to confuse this as the primary purpose. Our commitment to farm and food-only markets that support Washington's small family farms, ensuring food access for all, and nurturing a connection between producers and consumers is our mission at this time. Our basic needs, including those for food, drink, and agriculture, have not changed during this crisis. We believe that open-air markets with transparent and short supply chains can be the safest and best way to obtain food during this crisis.

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