



Everyone's Harvest

As 'Essential Businesses,' Everyone's Harvest Certified Farmers' Markets in Marina and Pacific Grove to Continue to Operate During 'Shelter in Place' Order

As an essential business in the community and to ensure that fresh food is available to local residents, Everyone's Harvest Certified Farmers' Markets in Marina and Pacific Grove will remain open to the community.

At this time only the Marina and Pacific Grove markets will open. Three Everyone's Harvest certified farmers' markets in Salinas will remain closed for now.

"A healthy and safe farmers' market is our number-one priority," said Everyone's Harvest Executive Director Reid Norris. "Our farmers and vendors, like many small businesses in the community, rely on your continued support to bring you necessary services like fresh food and produce. We are doing this to support local farmers and give people a nutritious option for produce. So if you are able to, please keep supporting us."

Everyone's Harvest Farmers' Markets will adhere to guidelines established by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and will be operating under an order from the County of Monterey Health Department determining that certified farmers' markets are "essential businesses" exempt from the "Shelter in Place" order by the Health Department that went into effect on March 18, 2020, and will continue until April 7, 2020.

The Marina Certified Farmers' Market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Sunday at 215 Reservation Road, in Marina. The Pacific Grove Certified Farmers' Market is held from 3 to 7 p.m. every Monday at the corner of Central and Grand avenues, in Pacific Grove.

"Everyone's Harvest is working closely with Monterey County Health Department and the cities of Marina and Pacific Grove to best serve the community," said Norris. "We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation, and we have a plan of action for our markets."

The plan of action includes the following:

- All vendors will receive Monterey County's Guidelines for Retail Food Establishments and we will be closely monitoring vendor operations.
- Everyone's Harvest asks that all vendors, farmers, and customers not attend the market if they are sick with fever, sneezing, or coughing.
- Best Practices: Market operations will be conducted in accordance with Los Angeles County's Department of Public Health's modified conditions for farmers' markets operating during shelter in place. This document will be made available at the market as well, and it recommends heightened measures such as extra space between stands, whenever possible, and disallowing sampling or prepared foods at the markets.
- Helping with Prevention: Hand sanitizer will be offered at the Information Booth, and Everyone's Harvest will monitor and, if necessary, restrict attendance so that the market attendees can maintain "social distancing" recommended by the California Department of Public Health. Market attendees are encouraged to keep 6 feet of personal space between themselves. Sanitizing solution will be used regularly at the Information Booth for any frequently touched items or equipment.
- Vendors will wear gloves whenever possible and wash their hands frequently (handwashing is available at all EH markets). Sampling of products is discontinued until further notice.

- Everyone's Harvest is following all updates given on COVID-19, including guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Monterey County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and local health officials.
- Everyone's Harvest is changing its usual layout of its farmers' markets in order to increase the amount of social distancing as much as possible. (See below.)

"We will continue to take the actions necessary to help protect the community," said Norris. "Specifically, if we are notified of a staff member, vendor, or participant testing positive for COVID-19, they will be suspended from any of our certified farmers' markets until they are medically cleared."

Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado said he is in full support of the farmers' market operating in his city.

"As Mayor of the City of Marina, I have spoken at length with the Marina City Manager and he and I agree the Marina Farmers Market provides some basic necessities, such as fresh produce," said Delgado. "Also, we discussed that it does so in an outdoor setting which may provide an option to the public to shop in an outdoor space rather than the more confined space of an indoor grocery store. This choice is good to offer each member of our public. The City Manager and I encourage and applaud you for any effort to adhere to COVID-19 precautions suggested by county health or state officials. Thank you for your efforts to protect our public during these extraordinary circumstances."

In order to increase the amount of social distancing as much as possible, Everyone's Harvest is changing its usual layout of its farmers' markets.

The new layout splits the market into a waiting zone and a shopping/produce area.

There is a limit of 10 people maximum in the produce area and a limit to the number of people around a booth at one time, with the 6-foot social distancing parameters in effect. Unless a vendor has a two-tent setup, each vendor is limited to one customer at a time.

There will be a sanitizing station/table set up with wipes and hand sanitizer for customers to use before approaching vendor booths.

The market will have a list of what produce is being sold by the vendors that day and displaying it at a writing station so shoppers can write their grocery list with the items available and then be in and out of the market as quickly as possible.

Market managers will be on hand to assist customers with their shopping, maintaining the 6-foot rule and making sure shoppers aren't waiting too long in the waiting area.

For more information, go to www.everyonesharvest.org or call (831) 384-6961.