



Social Distancing Plan for Best Practices at Everyone's Harvest's Certified Farmers' Markets

I. About Everyone's Harvest

Everyone's Harvest was founded in 2002, building on the capstone project of a student from Cal State Monterey Bay. Since then, the small nonprofit has grown into a robust, values-driven 501(c)3 organization that operates five certified farmers' markets and is a catalyst for health-related programs across Monterey County.

The mission is to provide access to healthy, affordable fruits and vegetables through certified farmers' markets and community food programs. The vision is for every community to have a fair and sustainable food system. More than 2,500 families are served weekly by Everyone's Harvest markets in Salinas, Marina, and Pacific Grove – with more than 25 small and mid-scale farmers serving them.

II. Introduction

Everyone's Harvest has been in regular communication with community partners, local health experts, and local governments during the COVID-19 situation. This document uses the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH) guidance for farmers' markets as its foundation along with guidelines and recommendations from Monterey County Health Department and the California Alliance of Farmers' Markets, while taking into consideration the unique circumstances of Everyone's Harvest's market locations in Monterey County.

Safety is our number one priority, and Everyone's Harvest is taking action to responsibly keep farmers' markets operating to serve our community with fresh locally-grown fruits and vegetables and nutrition programs that connect healthy food with the families most in need of it.

III. Social Distancing at Everyone's Harvest Farmers' Markets

Guidelines and Practices for Compliance

California Department of Public Health Guideline Summary:

1. Space booths accordingly to increase social distancing among patrons in line and walking about the market.
2. Ensure that social distancing of six feet per person for non-family members is maintained and make clear that family members [and households] can participate in activities together, stand in line together, etc.
3. Limit the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance.

4. Increase cleaning and sanitizing frequency of restroom and other high contact areas.
5. Train employees on best hygiene practices including washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
6. Offer additional hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout the venue.
7. Eliminate events/marketing that target individuals that the CDPH has identified as higher risk of serious illness for COVID-19.
8. Encourage activities such as pre-bagging to expedite purchasing.
9. Suspend sampling activities.
10. Increase frequency of cleaning of tables, payment devices, and other surfaces.
11. Eliminate non-essential/non-related services, such as bands or other entertainment.
12. At the end of the market, continue to utilize local food recovery systems to feed/donate extra products to populations in need.
13. If applicable, continue accepting EBT payment.

Monterey County Face Covering Order 4/28/20

Guideline: *Essential Businesses and entities or organizations that are engaged in Essential Infrastructure work or Minimum Basic Operations must take all reasonable steps to prohibit any member of the public who is not wearing a Face Covering from entering and must not serve that person.*

- Masks requirement for all market staff, volunteers, participants, vendors, customers, et al.
- Prominently post signage to inform customers about the need for masks to enter the market
- Vendors will not be permitted to participate at the market without masks described in the Monterey County Order
- Provide trained greeters (volunteers or staff, who are well and not in a high-risk group) at most frequently used market entrances to make people aware of mask requirement
- For more information on the mask requirement, please refer to Monterey County Health Department and the Face Covering Order

Guideline: *Space booths accordingly to increase social distancing among patrons in line and walking about the market.*

- Increase space between vendor booths (5-15 feet depending on available space) by limiting vendor participation, if necessary
- No Sampling at the market
- Use brightly colored tape to demarcate lines for vendors and shoppers in six-foot increments
- Prominently post signage to inform customers about the need for social distancing of six feet
- Provide trained greeters (volunteers or staff, who are well and not in a high-risk group) at most frequently used market entrances asking people to social distance at least six feet. Greeters might also point to signs and say something like:
 - Love your market? Follow these guidelines to keep market safe and open:
 - Honor physical distancing of 6 ft

- *Observe posted signage indicating where to stand/wait*
- *Stay home if sick*
- *Wash hands regularly*
- *Try to limit your market visit time, so please take your conversations online instead of in the market*
- *Cough and sneeze away from people and food*
- *Please show kindness and respect to your fellow market shoppers. Thank you for your support!*

Guideline: *Limit the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce outdoor/indoor crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance.*

- Use caution tape or other method to block off entrances to market that market does not wish for customers to use (also post signage indicating where customer may enter and exit)
- Conduct crowd counts at least every 30 minutes
- Determine and set threshold not-to-exceed participants/market to maintain 6-foot distancing
- If crowd counts reach set threshold:
 - Use staff/volunteers to begin queue at market entrance and use chalked out demarcate lines for customers waiting to enter, that indicate where customers should wait in six-foot increments

Guideline: *Increase cleaning and sanitizing frequency of restroom and other high contact areas*

- Sanitize high touch areas frequently
- For port-o-potties or indoor restrooms, wipe down handles/knobs inside and outside frequently; wipe down faucet frequently; wipe down any other high-touch surface frequently
- Exchange tokens for CalFresh EBT and Market Match in strawberry baskets to mitigate handling, have tokens pre-counted in \$5 increments to decrease handling
- Utilize disposable plastic wrap to cover EBT machine for each customer transactions OR
- Disinfect EBT machine between customers
- Staff wear disposable gloves and change frequently

Guideline: *Train employees on best hygiene practices including washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*

- Require all market staff and volunteers to watch training videos on:
 - [\(CDC\) Proper hand washing + Video](#)
 - [\(World Health Org\) Proper Hand Washing + visual instructions](#)
 - [\(WHO\) Proper glove use](#)
 - [\(WHO\) If using masks, proper mask use](#)
- Staff wear disposable food grade gloves and change frequently

- Provide employees and market vendors best hygiene practices in written form (email)
- Ask employees to wash hands at least hourly, but as often as needed and especially before and after any cash/token handling
- All vendors are requested to bring their own hand washing station
- Additional handwashing station is available to the public, as is hand sanitizer
- Prominent signage hung throughout the market asking customers to practice CDC best hygiene practices for reducing infection

Guideline: *Offer additional hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout the venue.*

- Provide handwashing station(s) available to the public, in addition to hand sanitizer.
- A hands-free plastic container, pump soap, hands free paper towel holder, and catch bucket will do the trick
- Request all vendors to bring their own hand washing station
- Encourage vendors to also provide hand sanitizer for their staff and customers

Guideline: *Eliminate events/marketing that target individuals that the CDPH has identified as higher risk of serious illness for COVID-19.*

- All market communications encourage those in [high-risk groups](#) to send another family/household member or neighbor to shop for them
- Cancel or postpone all non-essential activities, including cooking demos and music
- Cancel or postpone all special events for the next few months adjacent to or inside the market
- Eliminate any cafe area including tables and chairs for dining, encouraging customers to get in and out swiftly

Guideline: *Encourage activities such as pre-bagging to expedite purchasing.*

- Encourage farmers to pre-bag frequently purchased produce combinations
- Encourage farmers to bag for shoppers rather than have shoppers handle produce “point and purchase”
- Eliminate any self serve utensils, such as tongs

Guideline: *Suspend sampling activities.*

- All sampling at markets suspended until further notice

Guideline: *Increase frequency of cleaning of tables, payment devices, and other surfaces.*

- Sanitize high touch areas frequently (at least hourly)
- Exchange tokens for CalFresh EBT and Market Match in strawberry baskets to mitigate handling; have tokens pre-counted in \$5 increments to decrease handling
- Utilize disposable plastic wrap to cover EBT machine for each customer transactions OR
- Disinfect EBT machine between customers
- Staff wear disposable food grade gloves and change frequently; wash hands when changing food grade gloves

- Ask vendors to wipe down their tables and other equipment with sanitizing wipes before and after each market day, or more frequently if possible, including point-of-sales systems.

Guideline: *Eliminate non-essential/non-related services, such as bands or other entertainment.*

- Cancel or postpone all non-essential activities, including cooking demos and music
- Cancel or postpone all special events for the next few months adjacent to or inside the market
- Eliminate cafe area, including tables and chairs for dining
- Pare down market info booth to essentials, including EBT/Market Match processing and bags only

Guideline: *At the end of the market, continue to utilize local food recovery systems to feed/donate extra products to populations in need.*

- No change in these activities. Coordinate with your local food bank or gleaning program if you do not already

Guideline: *If applicable, continue accepting EBT payment.*

- Exchange tokens for CalFresh EBT and Market Match in strawberry baskets to mitigate handling, have tokens pre-counted in \$5 increments to decrease handling
- Utilize disposable plastic wrap to cover EBT machine for each customer transactions OR
- Disinfect EBT machine between customers