

The Dalles Farmers' Market COVID-19 Safety Plan

Updated April 1, 2021

The health and safety of our community is our top priority. Please read this safety plan in detail before shopping or vending at market. Reach out to thedallesfarmersmarket@gmail.com with any questions or clarifications.

The Dalles Farmers' Market is an Essential Service.

Our outdoor farmers market provides a key access point to local food for our community and relieves stress on grocery stores. High quality, nutrient dense food is more important than ever to keep our bodies and immune systems healthy. The short supply chain from field to market means a lot less hands are touching your food compared to that of a grocery store. Supporting small businesses, like farms, who both feed us and employ members of our community, is critical amidst our economic situation.

Governor Kate Brown has determined that farmers markets are essential services, just like grocery stores. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has issued guidance including social distance protocols that we are following until further notice. Be sure to follow the safety protocols stated in this document so we can operate safely and continue providing healthy food to our community.

Customer Expectations

Expect the market to look very different.

- The layout of our market will be very different from pre-covid markets in order to create enough space for everyone to shop safely. For example, vendors will be spaced out with at least 6-10' between booths or more as space allows.
- Vendors may not be in the same spaces you are used to seeing them so that we can minimize crowding. You can find vendor locations on our vendor map updated each Friday on our website. www.thedallesfarmersmarket.com
- We have cancelled some non-essential programming such as kids activities for the time being to allow us to maintain social distancing.
- **Stay home if you are sick or may have been exposed to COVID-19.**

Follow social distancing regulations:

- In order to maintain social distancing, we may need to limit the number of people in the market if necessary and may ask you to wait outside the market until space is available.
- **Maintain at least 6 feet between yourself and other people that are not from your household at all times.**
- Social distancing safety officers will be at the market and at each vendor's booth. Please listen to them, they are here to keep you and your neighbors safe!
- Want to help keep our market operating safely? Learn about volunteer opportunities by contacting the market manager at: tdfmvolunteers@gmail.com or call 541-965-3658.

Follow these safety and sanitation guidelines while shopping:

- Wash/Sanitize your hands before coming to the market.
- Use the hand washing stations and sanitizing options we provide at the market.
- Wash any reusable bags before bringing them to market.
- To speed up your shopping, look at our Fresh Sheet and vendor map each week on our website in order to make a grocery list and plan your shopping ahead of time. This will help you shop quickly and efficiently. After you have finished shopping please leave the market to make room for others.
- If you see friends or neighbors at the market and you wish to chat, please move out of the walkways/aisles to an area of the park or outside the market that will allow you to safely social distance and continue your conversation.
- Customers are encouraged not handle produce and food items prior to purchase. Vendor are encouraged to gather items you point to and select for purchase.
- Do not consume food on site unless sampling at a vendors booth.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. If you do, please sanitize or wash hands before touching anything.
- Follow guidelines provided by Center for Disease Control and Oregon Health Authority.
- **Face masks are required for all shoppers age 5 and over while inside the farmers market.** If you have a health issue that prevents you from wearing a mask, please wear a face shield. We will provide a limited supply of single-use face masks for shoppers who forget theirs, but please remember to bring your own as these are in short supply.
- Don't bring pets to the market.
- Offer to shop for a neighbor who can't make it to the market.
- Consider ordering and paying ahead of time to speed up transactions through any pre-order system that a vendor is using. You can find information on how to pre-order from your vendors here: <http://www.thedallesfarmersmarket.com/market-information/payment/> Once your order is placed with one or more vendors and paid for, you can then pick up your order from the vendor(s) at the market.
- SNAP tokens and Double Up Food Bucks (DUFEB) SNAP match will be processed at the Market Managers Booth to be used at Vendors' booths.
- The Market Managers booth will be accepting debit or credit cards in exchange for \$5 tokens to accommodate vendors that are only accepting cash and to ensure customers can make purchases from those vendors. Otherwise, be prepared to pay with cash or card directly with vendors, or utilize prepay/pre-order options.
- WIC/Senior FSNP Vouchers will be taken directly by Vendors who have signed up with Oregon Dept. of Agriculture.

Vendor Expectations

Neither vendors nor their staff will come to the market if they are ill or may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Social distancing:

- In compliance with government regulations, each vendor booth will have a designated “Social Distancing Safety Officer” who is responsible for ensuring 6-ft social distancing within their booth and is being followed by customers shopping at their booth. The Officer must (a) know they are the officer and be able to answer affirmatively if questioned, and (b) take responsibility for enforcing the social distancing policies in their own spaces. The Social Distancing Officer may have other duties. If a vendor is the sole worker present, they do not have to add additional staff to be compliant: you can be a Social Distancing Officer while simultaneously performing other duties in your booth.
- Vendors will design booth space to promote safe distancing- at least 6 feet- between vendors/products and customers.
- Vendor booths will be set 6-10 feet from the next vendor or further distance if the market manager determines it is necessary to control social distancing/overcrowding.

Product handling:

- Produce is to be pre-bagged/packaged to the maximum extent possible. Certified scales may be used by vendors to package and price items for customers. Customers are not to be encouraged to pick up items to hand to vendor to be weighed.
- Vendors are encouraged to eliminate or limit any self-service operations within the booth. Produce may be the exception. Vendors should limit opportunities for customers to handle products they are not purchasing.
- Customers may bring their own bags, but vendors are discouraged from touching them.
- Vendors handling money, tokens or vouchers will not handle food products until they have washed or sanitized their hands. If possible, vendor booths with more than one staff person should designate one person to handle food products and bag purchases, while the other handles money and transactions.
- Round prices of items to the nearest \$1 to cut down on the number of coins and cash changing hands per transaction.

Sanitization and protective wear:

- Have your own hand washing or sanitizing station in your booth. In addition, have hand sanitizer available for customers at checkout.
- High touch areas like tables, screens, cash boxes will be frequently sanitized
- Use plastic tablecloth or no table cloth on tables for easier wipe-downs
- Follow guidelines provided by Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov/COVID19 and Oregon Health Authority <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>
- **Face masks covering mouth and nose must be worn** by all vendors, workers and volunteers. Vendors, you must provide masks for anyone working your booth. Protecting public health and your health is of utmost importance.
- While hand washing is the most effective way to cut down on disease transmission via touch, if you or your staff have a habit of touching your faces frequently, it may be useful to wear disposable gloves that are changed frequently, as a reminder not to touch faces. Wash hands before and after every glove change.

Prepared food and samples:

- Food samples must comply with sampling rules and sampling procedures. Vendors must be approved in advance by the market manager for sampling. Sampling Rules:

- <https://files.constantcontact.com/56aa2e71201/6d854cc3-13e1-4854-9135-b0bd132a58e0.png>
- <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KN9ayz4pQ4A3bHBzOsd0GuU3QHKHHdrtzx65OCAQJ0g/edit>
- All prepared food is to be packaged for **take-out only, no on premises consumption.**
- No exposed prepared food. “Display only” is fine.
- No open condiments if prepared food provided
- No public tables or seating will be provided by vendors

Payments and pre-orders:

- Encourage contactless payments or minimize contact through use of pre-order and prepayment systems like Whatsapp, emailing or calling in advance of the market, ordering online on your website for market pickup, or offering Square, Venmo, Apple Pay or similar Apps as a payment option. We will collect information on any pre-order systems you use, as well as forms of payment you accept, to post on our website so shoppers can plan ahead if they so wish:
<http://www.thedallesfarmersmarket.com/market-information/payment/>
- Accept Credit/Debit transactions to maximum extent possible.

We are all in this together: with your help and support we can do our part to keep our community safe and healthy and continue to provide access to fresh, nutritious, local food.

Thank you!