

Ashe County Farmers Market Protocols for COVID-19

Ashe County Farmers Market will implement the following protocols to help “flatten the curve” and do our part to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Ashe County Farmers Market is essential to our local food supply system and we will strive to balance access to local food with health and safety.

- The market will send an email to vendors before Opening Day informing them of the new guidelines and asking vendors who are sick to stay home.
- The market will update the website with these new protocols.
- The market will also update our announcement on WKSK advising all customers if coming out to the market to please read our protocols on the website.
- The market will also post all protocols around the market during opening hours.

- **Customers will be encouraged to practice “social distancing” - maintaining a space of about six feet from each other - and will be informed of this policy as they enter the market.**
- **The market will try to have volunteers spread throughout the market reminding customers of this practice. (volunteers if possible or either the market manager will walk through the market continually to take on this protocol)**
- **The space between vendors will be increased to reduce crowding where possible.**
- **Vendors should round their prices to the nearest dollar so they can stop accepting coins - in the laboratory the virus has survived on coins.**

- **Customers will be asked not to handle any items on the vendors tables but to just point at what they want and let the vendors bag their purchases; vendors will be provided signage by the market informing customers of this policy.**
- **ACFM policy allows purchases to be made before the official bell rings at 8 am. This will also be the case this year to help prevent longer lines from forming at vendor booths.**
- **Vendors will be asked not to offer samples of their products to reduce opportunities for contamination.**
- **Vendors will be encouraged not to use fabric tablecloths to make it easier to sanitize surfaces; or vendors can lay a sheet of plastic over the top of their tablecloth which they can wipe down with sanitizer.**

- Vendors will be asked to wear disposable gloves, mainly as a reminder to not touch their face. Vendors can designate one person to handle money and another to handle product where possible.
- The market will designate volunteers or the market manager will stop by the vendor booths in order to relieve them so they can leave and wash their hands when needed.
- Vendors are asked to bring hand sanitizer to use at their tables and also a disinfectant to keep washing down surfaces.
- Customers will have access to ACFM'S 2 bathrooms in order to wash their hands.

We encourage all vendors to support and update each other by sharing other resources, ideas and any communication you feel would help our market during this evolving situation.