

Ashe County Farmers Market Protocols

Ashe County Farmers Market will implement the following protocols to help “flatten the curve” and do their 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.

VENDOR PROTOCOLS

- 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 post all protocols for “customers” around the market during opening hours.
- The space between vendors will be increased to reduce crowding where and when possible.

- **Social distancing will be practiced among vendors.**
- **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 should consider rounding their prices to the nearest dollar if possible, so they do not have to accept coins. In the laboratory the virus has survived on coins.**
- **All vendors should use plastic tablecloths in order to make sanitizing easier. Surfaces at each area should be wiped down as often as possible.**

- Vendors will be asked to wear disposable gloves and masks at all times. Vendors can designate one person to handle money and another to handle product where possible.
- Customers will be asked not to handle any items on the vendors tables but to 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.
- Vendors are asked to bring hand sanitizer to use at their tables and also a disinfectant and or wipes to keep washing down surfaces.
- Customers will NOT have access to ACFM'S 2 bathrooms. However, the vendors will have access if needed.

- Anyone failing to comply with market rules will be directed to leave.

CUSTOMER PROTOCOLS

- The market will implement entry control by using one entrance and one exit. The market will be taped off and signage will point customers to the entrance. At the entrance will be a portable hand washing station for customers to use before they enter the market.
- It will be “suggested” that all customers have on gloves and masks if possible.

- **Customers will be encouraged to practice “social distancing” - maintaining a space of six feet from each other - and will be informed of this policy as they enter the market.**
- **One customer at a time for each table. We will have to work together to make this happen.**
- **Children, if they must attend with adult shoppers, must be closely supervised.**
- **Customers will be asked not to handle any items on the vendors tables but to point at what they want and let the vendors bag their purchases.**
- **Anyone failing comply with market rules will be directed to leave.**

- Restrooms are closed due to COVID 19.