



COVID-19 Market Protocols

The Rhinebeck Farmers' Market (RFM) will continuously update protocols per guidelines of the CDC, NYS and Dutchess County Department of Health, NYS Agriculture & Markets, The Farmers Market Federation of New York, the Farmers Market Coalition, local and state government.

Per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.6:

Farmers' markets have been deemed an "essential business".

Executive order 202.18 concerning use of masks/face coverings

In accordance with state Executive Orders, it is now required for customers and vendors to wear face coverings when in a public place at the farmers' market. Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to this Executive Order and while shopping at the Rhinebeck Farmer's Market.

What the market is doing to promote social distancing

Social distancing to be enforced by market manager, site manager, board volunteers, local volunteer force and vendors

All vendors have the right to refuse a sale if shoppers are not practicing social distancing or wearing a proper face covering.

A vendor must halt all sales if their lines are not distanced properly.

Any shopper who does not abide by these rules will be asked to leave the market area.

Social distancing protocol

Any and all activities to encourage lingering and socializing have been discontinued.

The music program, events, community booth and other special appearances have been canceled.

Benches will not be put out for seating.

All sampling of food or drink items is discontinued.

No food purchased by the shoppers shall be eaten on site.

All vendor booths will be spaced at least 6 feet apart.

All vendors will have chalk lines, cones or similar markings to illustrate distance between themselves and shoppers as well as any line they may accrue.

Incoming shoppers will queue 6 feet apart at market entrance if the interior market capacity needs to be restricted.

Interior shopping capacity to be monitored and limited per foot traffic.

There will be one entrance and once exit. Shoppers must not cut through tree line or other perimeters between tents to enter the market.

Upon review and at RFM management/board discretion policy may be implemented that requires shoppers to sign up for a shopping block and a limited number will be allowed to shop during each 20 minute period. Shoppers would queue outside the market entrance in 6 feet intervals. Please sign up for our email list, so you can be notified if this is implemented.

Curbside pick for preordered/prepaid items will be available if coordinated among vendors and shoppers.

What the market is doing to promote a clean and safe environment for vendors and shoppers

10-10:30 shopping time reserved for 60+, immunocompromised and expectant mothers. There is no hierarchy of entry for these three groups during this 30 minute window.

The market will provide a hand wash station and hand sanitizer throughout the market.

Additional hand sanitizer, gloves and cleaning supplies will be available through market manager for vendors and shoppers as needed. Vendors should be providing their own on a weekly basis. This is for emergency use only.

Shopper specific notifications:

Shoppers stay home if sick, feeling sick or exposed to someone who has symptoms or a diagnosis.

All shoppers must be wearing a mask or face covering.

Please wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the market.

Only enter and exit the market through the designated areas. Do not cut through the tree line or outside perimeters between vendor tents.

Maintain a 6-foot distance from other shoppers, RFM staff and RFM vendors.

All people within the market should be actively shopping. Please limit your group size.

Purchase and pre-pay from vendors in advance through our communications whenever possible.

Bring a shopping list and bulk shop for items whenever possible.

Shoppers will not be able to touch any produce or product. Please shop with your eyes and then communicate.

Do not place bags or personal items on vendor tables.

Shoppers may bring their own reusable bags, but should pack their own bag away from the vendors tables.

Money or tokens will be placed in cup, bag, box or similar container. Use exact change whenever possible.

Credit card transactions should be no contact whenever possible.

No dilly dallying.

No tire kickers.

Please wash all produce before consumption.

Dogs and other pets are still not allowed in the market.

Programs that will continue at the market

SNAP (EBT) benefits processing. RFM will match \$1 for \$1 all SNAP transactions as long as financially possible. All vendors who are able to accept SNAP benefits process SNAP transactions for shoppers. Tokens to be sanitized after each market. Tokens will be taken out of circulation for weeks until reused again. Unfortunately, at this time NYS has not created a contactless way to process SNAP at farmers' markets.

Vendors will accept FMNP Fruit and Vegetable check and WIC Fruit and Vegetable checks that participate in the program. FMNP checks (Farms Market Nutrition Program) are issued based on income qualifications and to seniors and veterans.

Looking to partner with volunteer organizations to communicate volunteer shoppers for those that may not be able to attend the market during the pandemic. The market will communicate any paid “personal shoppers” to reduce foot traffic as well.

Looking to offer post market gleaning of produce or baked goods to share with local food pantries and other food rescue organizations.

Vendors will need to:

Stay home if sick, feeling sick or exposed to someone who has symptoms or a diagnosis. Vendors must notify RFM management if anyone present at our market received a positive diagnosis with their most recent date of attendance.

All vendors must be wearing a mask or face covering.

Supply plastic/vinyl tablecloths, bleach/cleaning solutions, food grade gloves and hand sanitizer for employees. Clear curtains and plexiglass or polycarbonate type guards within tents whenever possible.

Frequently wipe down all surfaces, cash boxes, phone/payment devices used, etc.

Frequently change gloves (or whenever soiled). Provide additional staff if needed for those with raw produce and cash money in the same booth. Gloves should be worn at all times if handling raw produce or seafood.

Suspend sampling of all items. All food items must be sold to be eaten off site. Individual beverage cup sales are not permitted.

Encourage pre order and prepayment of items.

Pre-package food items whenever possible. Bulk displays of uncovered items are highly discouraged. No cut and wrap cheese on site. No slicing of meats on site. Baked goods should be wrapped and labeled.

Vendors will have access to both hand washing stations at the market.

Vendor Display

Display area is to reflect all product behind market staff.

Only staff will touch products until the shoppers purchases it.

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