



ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKETS

(507)273-8232
ROCHFARMMKT@GMAIL.COM

PO BOX 6554,
ROCHESTER, MN 55903

Market Operation during COVID-19

Updated 7/3/20 – Subject to revision AT ANY TIME

Purpose

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rochester Farmers Markets is implementing the following policy for the safest possible operation of the open market. Minnesota State and Olmsted County officials have deemed the market an essential service. In these unique times, the market will operate as a *grocery store*, not a social gathering. To minimize risk to our valued vendors, customers, and staff, we will be emphasizing physical distance (minimum of 6 feet), handwashing and sanitizing, and strict adherence to guidance that people who are sick stay home.

Applicable Guidance

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is everyone's responsibility. Following are guidance documents and informative pages relevant to Minnesota farmers markets:

- [Guidance for Minnesota Farmers' Markets and Vendors](#) (MDA)
- [Shopping the Farmers' Market during COVID-19](#) (MDA)
- [Preparing for sick agricultural workers and COVID-19](#) (MDA)
- [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) (CDC)
- [How to Build a Hand Wash Station](#) (UMN Extension)
- [Customers Best Practices for Reusable Bags and Food Takeout Containers](#) (MDA)
- [Industry Guidance for Safely Reopening Restaurants & Bars](#) (MDEED)
- [Covid-19 Self Assessment Tool](#) (Mayo Clinic)
- [Covid-19 Self Assessment](#) also in [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#), and [Somali](#). (MDH)

Recommendations for Everyone

- STAY HOME if you are sick or fall into a high-risk group or if you have sick or high-risk people at home.
- WASH YOUR HANDS often at the hand washing stations provided by the market. Wash hands with soap under running water for minimum of 20 seconds after using restroom, after eating, smoking, or touching hair, skin or clothing, before handling clean products, between exchanges involving cash, check or credit cards.
- KEEP PHYSICAL DISTANCE minimum 6 feet separation between people from separate households in the market operating space.



ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKETS

Recommendations for Vendors, Staff, and Volunteers

Stay home if you are sick or uncomfortable selling. Notify Market Manager or a Board member if you will not attend. Minnesota Department of Health self-assess survey is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#), and [Somali](#).

- All Vendors are required to create a Covid-19 Preparedness plan. The University of Minnesota Extension office offers guidance at its [Covid-19 website](#).
- Maintain minimum 6 feet separation between selling space of neighboring vendors (tents may touch, but do not get within 6 feet of your neighbors when selling)
- Maintain minimum 16-foot aisle between rows of vendors
- Have your own hand wash station or hand sanitizer in your booth
- Mark off space in front of your booth in 6-foot increments using chalk
- Staff your booth with the minimum number of people for efficient sales. However, try to separate handling of payments and handling of products (i.e. two people per booth), or wash/sanitize between transactions.
- Display signs that emphasize safety precautions, which may include those provided by the market:
 - “PLEASE – Stay 6 Feet Apart – Point at what you want – let us package products”
 - “Thank you for wearing a mask”
- Use clean, nonporous table coverings or no table coverings
- Wear a face covering during market open hours
- Promote preordering and prepayment to increase shopper efficiency
- Prepackage products to limit handling and keep customers moving quickly
- Bag products in single use bags. You may allow customers to bag their own products in reusable bags as long as these do not touch your other products/tables. Do not accept reusable container donations.
- Use an empty table in front of your display to exchange goods with customers to enforce distance.
- Follow CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting food contact surfaces. Bring a spray bottle with correct sanitation solution and hand wipes to wipe off equipment or wash and sanitize when you get home.

See next page for Recommendation for Customers



ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKETS

Food and Beverages at the Farmers Markets for Vendors, Staff, and Volunteers

Stay home if you are sick or uncomfortable selling.

- *Effective 6/06/2020* Concession were invited to return to market with the **REQUIREMENT** that they submit a plan to sell foods/beverages for take-out only, display signage reminding customers to take food home, and verbally reinforce this with customers.
- Concession are encouraged to use pre-wrapped silverware.
- *Effective 7/04/2020* vendors can sample at the Farmers Market with the **REQUIREMENT** that:
 - All aspects of the Safe Food Sampling at Farmers' Market ([M.S. 28A.151](#) law) all followed
 - Samples are covered according to the Minnesota Food Code
 - Samples are pre-portioned, monitored with a socially distant worker, vendors discourage congregating, and there are adequate trash receptacles.
- *Effective 7/04/2020* Concession are invited to tell customers about the Picnic Area available under Gov. Waltz Executive Order 20-74.
- Rochester Farmer's Saturday Picnic Area:
 - The Picnic Area is clearly marked and welcomes customers with a sandwich sign. The availability, layout, and location are subject to change without notice. The Market Manager offers an up-to-date map of the Farmers Market available by request at any time during working hours.
 - Tables and equipment in the Picnic Area cannot be moved without Market Manager approval to maintain proper social distancing guidelines.
 - Any Staff, Volunteers, and Vendors in the Picnic Area, not as a customer, are required to wear a mask. Mask are offered, contact the Market Manager with questions.
 - The Picnic Area offers a handwashing station customers and vendors are encouraged to use.
- Minnesota Farmers' Market Association website offers a [summary here](#) on the new food regulations or vendors are welcomed to reach out to the Market Manager.

See next page for Recommendation for Customers



ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKETS

Recommendations for Customers

We MUST have safe practices to be able to stay open. Thank you for doing your part!

- Shop alone if possible. Please send only the primary shopper per family and prepare a shopping list in advance.
- Access the market from Broadway Ave and enter the market at the main entrance on the West side. Drive thru customers will continue around Fairgrounds Ave to the pickup area.
- Respect other shoppers' space and form lines that keep a 6-foot spacing.
- Please consider covering your face with a mask or cloth while you shop.
- Please consider reserving the first hour that we are open on Saturdays (7:30 to 8:30 AM) for customers who are at higher risk.
- We are still offering token system and accepting EBT / matching up to \$10 Market Bucks per market.
- Sorry – NO mingling, handshakes, extra activities, or kids Power of Produce club at this time.
- A Picnic Area is opening 7/04/2020 for customers to sit and enjoy food. However, you still cannot eat or drink in the Farmers Market or consume while moving. The tables cannot be moved. IF there is a suggestion on improvements, please contact the Market Manager. Tables have a limit of four people (up to 6 in a household/family). We encourage customers to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using the Picnic Area.
- If you are not comfortable coming to market, we invite you to check out our online store (rochfarmmkt.org/shop) or visit our list of [vendors accepting preorders](#).

See next page for Market Setup information.



ROCHESTER FARMERS MARKETS

Market Setup

Markets at Graham Park Lot C (1400 Fairgrounds Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904) will be set up to minimize congestion and provide easy access to hand washing facilities. Sampling, onsite concessions, music, and additional programming (i.e. demos, Power of Produce kids' program, tours, meet-ups, sponsor booths, etc.) will be discontinued until further notice. Following are recommendations for specific setup items:

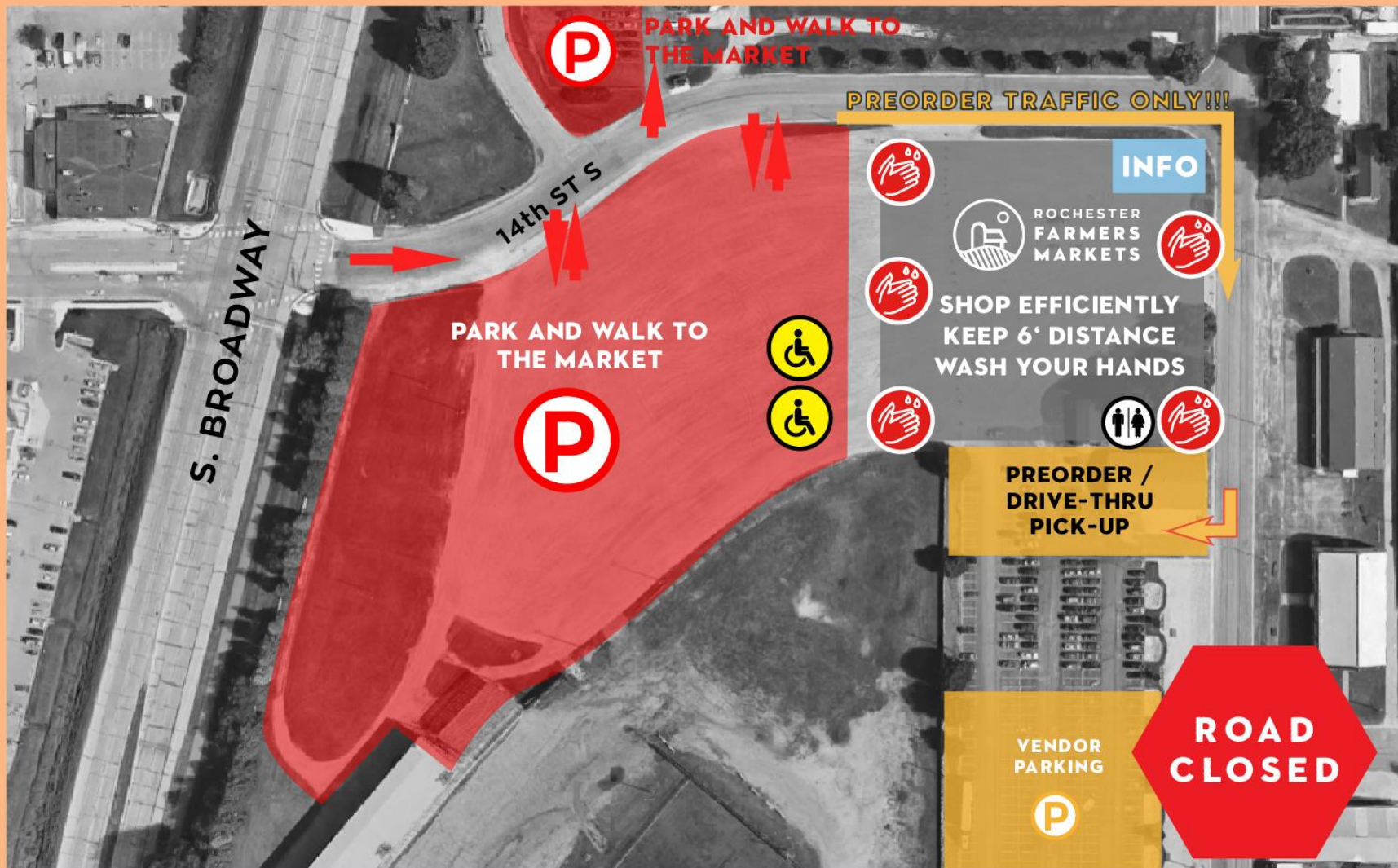
- Public hand wash stations and trash cans should be placed at the entrance to each aisle
- Market Info booth will be minimal setup with no tablecloths
 - We WILL maintain the token-based Credit/Debit/SNAP system and matching Market Bucks. Used tokens will be separated after each market and allowed to sit for a full week prior to reuse. Used Market Bucks will be discarded.
 - Market Info booth will have hand sanitizer, sanitizing spray and paper towels available
- Entry signs on West and East end
 - "Shop Efficiently, Don't Congregate, Wash Your Hands"
 - "Sorry, No Pets in the Market"
- Traffic signs
 - "<<< Market / Drive Thru >>>" – Separate drive thru customers from park & walk customers
 - "No Farmers Market Access – Use Broadway Ave" sign at 16th St entrance to Graham Park
- Limit entrances and exits using cones and fencing as needed
 - Primary entrance center of West end
 - Use fencing/cones to direct traffic past signs and hand wash stations
- Drive thru will take place on the southeast side of the market (Bld 35 and/or 32).
 - Online ordering for the farmers market hub will be Sundays at 12:00 through Wednesdays at 8:00 PM for the following Saturday's market.
 - Anyone interested in volunteering for this essential service (sorting/packing, drive thru, and/or delivery) should contact rochfarmmkt@gmail.com.

See next page for market setup diagrams.



ROCHESTER
FARMERS
MARKETS

GRAHAM PARK MAP





ROCHESTER
FARMERS
MARKETS

NEW DRIVE-THRU MAP



Shopping the Farmers' Market during COVID-19



Stay home if sick

- Wearing a mask does not mean people who are sick should go out into the community.



Plan for success

- Check websites or Facebook pages for updates. Call or email ahead if unsure of changes.
- Learn if your market is using pre-order or drive-through options.
- Make a shopping list.



Wash your hands (before & after)

- Wash your hands at home before leaving and after returning.
- Handwashing stations may be available at the market.



Clean reusable bags

- Machine wash and care for your bags between shopping trips; use only clean bags.
- Individual markets may have different requirements around reusable bags - check ahead of time.



Use a mask

- Show that you care: wear a mask to the market, if possible.



Look for instructions

- Markets may post instructions on signs around the market.
- Markets may have volunteers instructing visitors.
- Pre-order or drive-through options might be used by your market.



Expect delays

- The number of customers allowed to shop at one time will be limited. Please be patient.



Keep 6 feet (1 cow) apart

- Be friendly from afar: Wave, share a "peace" sign, or crinkle your eyes in a smile from behind your mask!



Shop alone, if possible

- Bring only as many household members as is absolutely needed.



Shop speedily

- Know what you are looking for (create a list!)
- Buy items as quickly as possible.
- Avoid gathering in groups.



Eat at home

- Food trucks and prepared food may be present but only for takeout.
- No onsite food consumption.
- When eating takeout at home:
 - 1) Open packaging
 - 2) Wash hands
 - 3) Remove food
 - 4) Toss packaging
 - 5) Wash hands again
 - 6) Enjoy!



Plan how to pay

- Small bills to make exact change may be helpful.
- Credit cards or prepay methods may be available - check with your market.