Northeast Farmers Market - COVID-19 Response

Farmers markets are considered essential grocery providers by the State of Minnesota and will open this summer to serve our community. Farmers markets are an important part of our food supply and are essential to our farmers. We are closely following guidance from the CDC, Minnesota Department of Health, and Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Farmers markets have long been places to gather and build community. However, this season we must physically distance (stay 6 feet apart) and resist the urge to linger and socialize. We each have a critical role to play to slow down the spread of COVID-19.

This season, we will take measures to help keep people and foods safe and have made the following changes to keep our community safe.

**Market set up and procedures to accommodate physical distancing requirements**
- Create a border around the market; one entrance and one exit
- Limit the number of customers in the market at one time
- Widen aisles (if possible) with one-way traffic & designated customer waiting areas
- Space vendor stalls at least 6-feet apart
- Encourage credit card and no-touch transactions
- Provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitation onsite
- Require staff, vendors & volunteers to wear masks and frequently wash their hands
- Cancel activities where people gather: educational events, cooking demos, music, kids activities, etc.
- No dogs

**Customers are strongly encouraged to:**
- Stay home if you or someone in your home is sick.
- Send only one person into the market to shop
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering
- Wash your hands frequently
- Maintain a 6 foot distance between you, vendors, market staff and other customers
- No mingling! Be efficient!
- Do not touch products; vendors will hand product packaged to you
- Do not eat food while at the market- All food must be taken to go - take home only
- Place pre-orders with vendors or prepay online (if possible) to speed transaction time and reduce virus spread through handling of money, credit cards, etc.

**Vendors are strongly encouraged to:**
- Stay home if you or someone in your home are sick
- Wear a mask or cloth face covering
- Sampling of products have been suspended
- Wash hands frequently
- No table cloth for easy cleaning purposes
- Encourage credit card and no-touch transactions
- Assist customers; this will be a no-touch market
- Use hand sanitizer when/if needed
- Sell and package food/drinks to-go only; no consumption onsite

There has never been a more important time to buy local and contribute to a healthy local food economy. Thank you for your support!

For more information and questions, please contact the Northeast Market Manager: sarah@northeastmarket.org