

ReOpen DC Farmers Market Guidance: Phase 1

Phase 1: Updated Waiver Process

- Farmers market waivers are now valid for the duration of the farmers market season, ending on December 31, 2020 or the end of the public health emergency, whichever comes first.
- Farmers markets with an existing waiver do not need to reapply to operate.
- Farmers markets who plan to operate but have not yet received a waiver must submit an application ([link here](#)) at least one week in advance of the proposed date of operation. Learn more about the farmers market process at coronavirus.dc.gov/farmersmarkets.
- In order to operate and receive a waiver, farmers markets must already have a DCRA vending license. Learn more about that process on the DCRA website ([link here](#)). Markets must also have a DDOT or DPR permit if operating in public space or on DPR property, respectively.

Phase 1: Continued Requirements for Farmers Markets and Customers

Farmers markets must continue to comply with the following requirements:

- Ensure compliance with all [public health requirements](#) established by DC Health, including:
 - Providing sanitizing and/or hand washing stations at entrances and exits and throughout the market;
 - Providing safety signage on requirements and guidelines at all entrances;
 - Requiring all vendors, market staff, and customers to wear non-medical cloth face coverings when visiting the farmers markets (except children under 9 years old);
- Prohibit entertainment;
- Provide guidance to customers that only one household member should attend;
- Prohibit pets;
- Prohibit samples;
- Place all products, including both food and non-food items, behind a rope, table, or other barrier, and encourage customers to not touch products before purchasing;
- Provide clearly-viewable menus of sales options to customers at each vendor stall;
- Cover all non-plastic tables with vinyl or plastic covers to facilitate sanitizing;
- Minimize queuing and ensure those in line are at least 6 feet apart;
- Space tables and tents at least 10 feet apart;
- Enforce a maximum number of people allowed at the market at time (if there are more than three stalls);
- Immediately disburse groups of people that form in public space near the entrances and exits of the market to reduce the risk of requiring closure of the market;
- The District continues to strongly encourage markets to explore and implement grab n go, pre-bagged, and delivery options and reservation systems, whenever possible.

Phase 1: Newly Permitted Activities

- Vendors and tables selling non-food items (such as soaps, crafts, etc.)
- Vendors and tables selling food prepared on-site; however, customers are still not allowed to consume prepared food on site and vendors should take steps to minimize queuing and waiting;
- Vendors allowing customers to select their own produce; however, vendors are still required to enforce 6 feet of social distancing and must have products behind a barrier (see above), so it may not be feasible for some vendors to conduct this activity;
- Vendors and tables providing non-essential information and education (like nutrition education).

Phase 1: Continued Guidelines for Customers

Customers are encouraged to follow the following guidelines; we recognize that farmers markets cannot enforce compliance with these guidelines.

- Stay home if they feel ill, have symptoms, or have been exposed to the virus;
- Keep proper distance from food displays and surfaces and follow social distance requirements;
- Order ahead to limit the time spent at the market;
- Explore home delivery from local farms and food hubs;
- Only send one family member from each household to the market;
- Leave children, seniors, and other vulnerable family members at home.