

Phase 5: OUTDOOR Farmers Market Guidelines

Updated September 30, 2021



Market Management

- Farmers market managers should consult their local health departments and the State of Illinois for the latest information on COVID-19 and current conditions in their community.
- Communicate with customers and vendors regularly about market practices and expectations.



General Guidelines

- Masks are not required but recommended.
- Capacity limits no longer apply
- Allow for social distancing in market set up
- Maintain enhanced sanitation and good food safety practices
- On-site food consumption and sampling inside the farmers market footprint is permitted with local approval
- All vendors and community groups are welcome



Masks

- Farmers Market operators should work with local jurisdictions in setting policies.
- Masks are required in all indoor public settings.***
- Masks are recommended in crowded outdoor settings and for activities that involve close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.***
- Businesses and municipalities are permitted to continue to require face coverings and social distancing as they deem appropriate. *



Social Distancing

- Continue to set up the market for social distancing, however, there are no capacity limits for Phase 5.
- All businesses and venues should support social distancing to the extent possible, especially in indoor settings.
- Businesses and venues should apply best practices in managing distancing at such places as concessions/counters, public restrooms, and lines/queuing. The guidance is not a requirement, but highly recommended.*
- In planning a winter market you may want to consider setting up the market with next level restrictions in mind;

Restore Illinois Bridge to Phase 5 restrictions for farmers markets

- 30 people/1000 sq. ft outdoor
- 15 people/1000 sq. ft indoor

Restore Illinois Phase 4 restrictions for farmers markets*****

- 25% capacity or
- 15 people/1000 sq. feet



Wellness Screenings

- Screenings for vendors/volunteers/staff are no longer required but recommended.



Enhanced Sanitation

- Continue to provide hand sanitizer and practice enhanced sanitation.



General Guidelines

- Communicate with customers regularly about market practices and expectations.
- Communicate with signage, expected customer behavior, throughout the market.
- Consider adding a designated shopping time or other delivery services for vulnerable patrons, the elderly, and disabled.
- Set up market for social distancing;
- Set up booths a minimum of six feet apart
- Allow for social distancing within booth space, while customers are shopping, and waiting in line.
- Enhanced sanitation procedures;
- Follow prescribed state and local food safety procedures for all products offered for sale
- All stands must have approved farmers market portable handwashing stands** or approved CDC hand sanitizer***
- Recommend touchless transactions.
- Follow market guidelines for handling Link tokens, nutrition incentives and other nutrition assistance coupons.
- All vendors must sanitize their booths every 2 hours; wiping down tables, terminals, cash boxes, and other high touch surfaces.



RESOURCE LINKS

***Illinois Phase 5**

<http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/COVID19/Illinois%20Phase%205%20Guidelines.pdf>

****IDPH Portable Hand Washing Station**

<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Farmers-Market-Food-Product-Sampling-Handout.pdf>

*****CDC Hand Sanitizer Guidelines**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/hand-hygiene.html>

****** Executive Order 2021-20**

<https://www.illinois.gov/government/executive-orders/executive-order.executive-order-number-20.2021.html>