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COMMUNITY EVENT GUIDANCE FOR PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19

Interim Guidance for Certified Farmers' Markets, Swap Meets, & Produce Vehicles

Updated: March 19, 2020

On March 16, 2020, the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued a mandatory legal order ("Order") directing all individuals living in the County to shelter at their place of residence and to self-isolate to the maximum extent possible. This Order is necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19 in this region and remains in effect from 12:01 a.m. March 17, 2020 through 11:59 p.m. on April 7, 2020. Identical orders are in effect across six Bay Area counties, including Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Alameda Counties as well as the City of Berkeley. For more information, please refer to <https://cchealth.org/coronavirus/pdf/HO-COVID19-SIP-0316-2020.pdf>.

How Does the Order Affect Permitted Certified Farmers' Markets, Swap Meets, and Mobile Produce Trucks in Contra Costa County?

The intent of the Order is to ensure that, during the shelter-in-place period, members of the public can continue to access essential goods and services, including groceries, prepared foods, household consumer products, and to engage in essential activities. The Order specifies Certified Farmers' Markets as an "Essential Business (section 10(f)(ii))."

Contra Costa Environmental Health (CCEH) also recognizes Certified Farmers' Markets, Swap Meets, and Produce Vehicles to be crucial to providing public access to fresh agricultural food products. To maintain the social distancing mandate and provide fresh food to residents, Certified Farmers' Markets, Swap Meets, and Produce Vehicles that have a current health permit to operate shall implement the following:

Employees and Booth Vendors

- Goods sold should be limited to those considered essential under the order, such as groceries, prepared foods and household consumer products.
- If living with someone who show symptoms of acute respiratory illness (fever of 100.4°F, coughing, shortness of breath) or are tested positive for Corona Virus (COVID-19) shall stay home and not return until free of all symptoms.
- Anyone appearing to be ill at the start of work or become sick during the day shall be sent home immediately.



- Practice best hygiene practices, including washing their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before eating or drinking, putting on gloves, using the restroom, or when hands become contaminated.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a sleeve or disposable tissue. Wash hand afterward.
- Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet between people.

Required Operation Modifications

- **No food preparation booths (temporary food facilities) will be permitted to operate.**
- **No sampling of unpackaged food will be permitted.**
- Space booths accordingly to increase social distancing among patrons in line and walking within the market.
- Limit the number of customers at any given time as necessary to reduce crowding and lines to meet social distancing guidance (ex. 6 feet per person).
- Limit the sale of food to whole uncut produce and prepackaged food items.
- Encourage produce vendors to pre-bag produce to expedite purchasing.
- Ensure handwashing stations are provided adjacent to restroom facilities and stocked with soap and paper towels at all times.
- Increase the cleaning and sanitizing frequency of restroom and other high contact areas.
- Increase the cleaning and sanitizing frequency of tables, payment devices, and other high touch surfaces.

Additional Recommendations

- Appropriate use of gloves, especially if pre-bagging agricultural food products. **Remember that gloves do not replace the need to wash hands and always practice good hand hygiene.**
- Offer additional hand washing or sanitizing stations throughout the venue.
- Post signs reminding customers of the following:
 - Wash all produce before consuming
 - Handwashing reminder
 - Asking customers to remain home if they are sick, even with a mild illness
- Assign an employee to ensure handwashing facilities remain stocked with soap, water, and paper towels.
- Recommend providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for customers at each entry point or near produce vending.
- At the end of the market, utilize local food recovery systems to feed/donate extra food products to populations in need.



Contra Costa Environmental Health appreciates your commitment to provide safe and healthy food to our residents. If you have additional questions regarding this guideline or Contra Costa County Health Officer Shelter-In-Place Order, please contact us at 925-608-5500 or email at cocoeh@cchealth.org.



COVID-19

Protect yourself
and loved ones

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

+ WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with soap and warm water regularly.



+ COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE

Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.



+ DON'T TOUCH

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.



+ KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



+ STAY HOME

If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.



+ GET HELP

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.



MORE INFORMATION

Follow the California Department of Public Health:
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