

PROTOCOLS FOR THE GROTON FARMERS MARKET

General Guidance: It is the intent of these protocols to address the concerns of the COVID-19 global pandemic while enabling the Groton Farmers Market the opportunity to open during the 2020 Market Season. These protocols require market managers (a.k.a., volunteers of the Williams Barn Committee), vendors, and customers to take protective public health measures as well as address the need for changing the culture of the market. These guidelines coupled with the safety protocols listed below aim to provide an opportunity for the buying and selling of local goods while minimizing the chance for exposure to the coronavirus.

Vendors and consumers should follow the Departments of Agricultural Resources Bulletin (2020-05): Farmers' Markets, Farm Stands, & CSAs Guidance Memo #5 and any other subsequent guidelines.

General Best Practices (for everyone):

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth and no handshaking.
3. Stay home from the market when you are sick.
4. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
6. Vendors, market managers, and customers shall wear face masks.
7. When at the market, practice good hygiene by properly washing your hands and sanitizing as necessary.
8. Social Distancing:
 - a) A "No Congregation" policy is in effect; individuals must implement social distancing by maintaining a minimum distance of 6-feet from other individuals.
 - b) The gathering of market goers for social purposes is temporarily banned.

Guidelines for customers

1. Customers shall practice social distancing as described above.
2. It is strongly encouraged that only one person per household shop at the market.
3. Customers should expect to exit the market and leave as soon as their purchasing is completed.
4. Parents/guardians of young children are discouraged from bringing them to the market.
5. No gatherings such as, but not limited to, viewing live music will be allowed.
6. Customers are prohibited from using reusable bags.
7. Customers are expected to follow the 'General Best Practices' listed above.

Guidelines for market managers (a.k.a., Williams Barn Committee volunteers)

1. Market Managers shall practice social distancing as described above.
2. Market managers should maintain adequate space between vendors to assist in patron flow and reduce crowding at vendor stations.
3. Market managers should limit the number of customers who can enter the market space at one time based on established occupancy rate, which shall be set by the Fire Chief.
4. Hygiene:
 - a. At least one hand washing station, which shall include but not be limited to portable sinks equipped with soap and paper towels, hand sanitizers and paper towels, shall be provided to vendors and customers.
 - b. At least one portable toilet, which shall contain hand sanitizer and be cleaned at least daily, shall be provided. Sanitation will be conducted with equipment and material approved for COVID-19 sanitization.

5. Market managers must utilize disposable gloves at all times during market operations.
6. Market managers must keep vendors and customers updated on market information and safety protocol.
7. As necessary, the market managers (a.k.a., the Williams Barn Committee) will enforce these protocols. If additional enforcement is required, Market managers shall contact the Groton Police Department. Vendors found in violation of these protocols will be removed and not allowed to return to any future Farmers Market during the 2020 Market Season.
8. Prior to the start of any market day, the following will be required by each vendor entering the market:
 - a. Vendors shall certify to market managers that they:
 - i. Have no signs of a fever or a measured temperature above 100.3 degrees or greater, a cough or trouble breathing within the past 24 hours.
 - ii. Have not had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. "Close contact" means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for about 15 minutes, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, while that person was symptomatic.
 - iii. Have not been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by their doctor or a local public health official.
9. Market managers are expected to follow the 'General Best Practices' listed above.

Guidelines for vendors:

1. Vendors shall practice social distancing as described above.
2. The offering/distribution of product samples is temporarily prohibited.
3. Vendors shall minimize the handling of produce and products by both staff and customers including disallowing the touching of produce at vendor tables and sales points.
4. The use of reusable bags is temporarily prohibited until further notice. Vendors may choose to use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or single-use plastic bags.
5. When appropriate, the use of online ordering via email or pre-bagged orders should be considered by markets/vendors as well as drive-up systems.
6. Vendors must utilize disposable gloves at all times during market operations.
7. Cleaning/Sanitization:
 - a. Vendors are encouraged to limit the use of tablecloths in order to make it easier to clean and sanitize table surfaces or utilize a sheet of clear plastic over the top of the tablecloth to facilitate increased cleaning and sanitizing of contact surfaces.
 - b. Vendors should clean and sanitize their displays, including their tables and items used to display produce in, at the end of every market and at intervals during market operation.
 - c. The use of items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized shall be discontinued.
 - d. Vendors should follow the EPA/CDC guidance on proper cleaning/sanitization methods.
8. Money Handling:
 - a. To facilitate transactions at markets, vendors should, when appropriate, minimize cash transactions and prioritize the use of credit card and online payment application platforms used on smartphones.
 - b. Point of sale devices shall be cleaned and sanitized between each use.
9. Vendors are expected to follow the 'General Best Practices' listed above