To: Town Council
Fr: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager
Dt: April 30, 2020
Re: Amherst Farmer’s Market Application

Attached is the application for the Amherst Farmers Market. Also included are:
- a plan dated April 25, 2020 prepared by staff outlining the layout;
- the original application form;
- Governor Baker’s order further extending the closing of certain workplaces and the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people issued April 28, 2020;
- Commissioner Bharel’s order for farmers markets, farm stands, and CSAs issued April 27, 2020;
- Commissioner Bharel’s guidance extending the order by the Governor prohibiting assemblages of more than 10 people and on-premises consumption of food and beverage issued March 31, 2020;
- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Guidance Memo #5 on farmers’ markets, farm stands, & CSAs.

About the Plan:
- The plan provides for a maximum of 32 vendors tents 10’x10’ in size.
- The tent layout provides for an appropriately sized shopping zone to the front and sides of the vendor display area to allow for shoppers to pass by when others are making a purchase.
- The northern aisle in the Spring Street lot will have a single row of vendor displays and the southern aisle will have two rows of vendor displays.
- A portion of Boltwood Avenue measuring approximately 100’ north and 100’ south of Spring Street shall be part of the market area.
- The Spring Street lot will only allow parking for a limited number of vendor vehicles. All on-street parking spaces on Boltwood Avenue south of Spring Street will be reserved for vendor parking.
- Shoppers visiting the market will have full access to the Main Street and Town Hall parking lots and street parking on Main and South Pleasant Streets.
- A waiting line to enter the market will be formed on Boltwood Avenue north of Spring Street along the North Common.
- Shoppers will exit the market on Boltwood Avenue south of Spring Street in front of the Inn on Boltwood and have access to the sidewalk in front of Town Hall to get back to the parking lots.
• A designated curbside pickup location will be established on South Pleasant Street along the North Common. Two parking spaces will be reserved for this function.
• All components of the market including tents, signage and fencing shall be installed prior to the market opening and removed when the market closes.

In addition to following the guidelines incorporated in the documents listed above, staff developed the following operational guidelines that would be required for the period of time when COVID-19 is a consideration:
• There shall be a dedicated entrance and exit to the market. The entrance and exit should be located on Boltwood Avenue and maintain at least 6 feet of separation;
• There should be dividers to aid in establishing a single direction traffic flow. Spacing of vendor tents and aisle widths shall be as shown on the layout plan and confirmed by Inspection Services during the initial set-up;
• The enclosure of the market area should require fencing or some alternative approved by Inspection Services;
• There should be a Plexiglas barrier in place to go as high as the top of the standing vendor’s head and mounted to allow for transactions and delivery of products. Cash transactions may be co-located in the shielded area but would require a separate staff member to manage cash;
• There should be a provision for a loading zone and a proposal to manage this area as to whether it is self-service or contact-less delivery;
• Alcohol-based hand sanitizer or hand wash stations should be provided at the entrance and mid-point of the market;
• Portable toilets and details for location and maintenance may be required as determined by Inspection Services;
• The vendors should be limited to those that provide agricultural products in accordance with the state guidelines on “essential”, arts and crafts are not permitted;
• All patrons must maintain a 6 foot distance from each other in all locations throughout the market;
• Additional signage and markings may be required for vendors to ensure proper distancing between shopper waiting, ordering and paying;
• Vendors shall bag products ordered by shoppers whenever possible to limit shopper handling of products;
• Shoppers and staff should be encourage to wear face coverings. Face coverings must be required for staff who cannot maintain 6 feet of distance from each other;
• There shall be no live music, food trucks or carts, sampling of food products, or tastings;
• The use of reusable bags provided by shoppers is not allowed;
• The first hour of the market operation shall be dedicated for shopping by adults 60 years or older and for those with health conditions;
• A maximum occupancy load shall be established by the Building Commissioner depending on the final footprint approved by the Town Council. Market staff shall be positioned at the entry line and other locations to actively manage the flow of shoppers and encourage them to complete their transactions in an efficient manner and then exit the market to allow space for other shoppers. Proper separation in the waiting line will be maintained at 6 feet between patrons.
Notes:
1. Provide Covid-19 symptom signage at entry
2. Market staff to control customer entry and circulation
   - 6 feet separation in all locations
   - Only one customer in vendor shopping zone
   - Enforce use of dedicated entrance and exit points
   - Single line movement through market
3. Plexiglass at transaction locations min. 0.5 high
4. Continuous barrier to be filtering or other approved method
5. Vendors to sanitize touch points with direct customer contact
6. Limit customer handling of food or products
7. No tasting of food or handing out samples
8. Vendor to provide designated staff if cash is exchanged
9. Provide 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer
10. Vendor parking area is limited - none will park on street or lot
11. Maximum customer occupancy in market - 30

Amherst Farmers Market
Layout Plan
April 22, 2020
Application for Reservation of a Town Way

(Use this form to reserve a road or park for a block party, road race, parade, or other parking requests.)

Information contained on this form is public information.

Name of Applicant/Organization: Amherst Farmers Market

Address of Applicant/Organization: P. O. Box 203, Amherst, MA 01002

Contact name & Title: John P. Spinetti

Phone Number: 413-786-2335 Email: Spinetilazarus@yahoo.com

Event/Reservation Begins: 04/18/2020 7:00 am Event/Reservation Ends: 11/21/2020 1:30 pm

Date Time Date Time

Address or Location of Event: Spring Street Parking Lot

For road race or parade, please include the route with starting and ending locations. Applicant must provide a detailed map of entire route

Name of Event: Saturday Farmers Market

Type of Event:

☒ Reserve parking spaces for construction, repair, demolition, moving van, painting, or cleaning

☐ Parade, road race, or block party

☒ Partial road closure ☐ Full road closure

(Reservations or closures may require the hiring of detailed police officers.)

Number of people anticipated in connection with the event:

Clean-up plan: Clean up will occur every Saturday during and after the event by Farmers Market staff and Vendors

Will food service, bathroom facilities, and or tents be utilized? Yes

What, if any, type of equipment will be in the Public Way: Vendors, tents, Tables and vehicles

Equipment/Vehicle Location: ☐ Sidewalk ☒ Road ☐ Curb Lane ☐ Traffic Lane ☐ Bike Lane

How many feet of lane usage is required or what are the metered parking space number(s) you are seeking to reserve? Intersection of Boltwood and Spring moving South till the access Road Between the Inn on Boltwood and the Porter house.

(The applicant agrees that the use of sound equipment will be reduced or eliminated upon the request of the Amherst Police Department.)

I have read the attached Rules and Orders Regulating Paved Areas and agree to abide by them.

Applicant Signature: John Spinetti Date: 3/09/2020
> Paul,
> The Amherst Farmers’ Market requests that it be given permission to open as an essential business. Through governmental programs the market provides produce to customers of SNAP, HIP, WIC and BC/BS Healthy Living Program’s $35,000.00 grant. We would like to open as soon as possible by adhering to the following protocols on distancing and proper hygiene.
> 
> 1. According to the plan developed by Rob Morra (see attachment) in terms of distancing, the market plans to use both the Spring St. lot and Boltwood Avenue with safe spacing between vendors. Structuring the market so that there is a single entry/exit point will be accomplished by fencing the entire Spring Street and Boltwood perimeter of the market. Queuing customers waiting to enter the market at 6’ intervals will be accomplished at the Boltwood St end. Market personnel such as the manager and volunteers will monitor and limit the number of customers within the market.
> 
> 2. Sanitary requirements. Vendors and market personnel must use face masks and gloves. Each vendor will sanitize the surface of their display tables during the market. Only plastic surfacing in sales areas will be allowed to make required sanitizing between sales possible. Vendors who can prepackage food in plastic bags, clamshells or other such containers will have the upper hand in solving one hurdle. No customer will be allowed to handle unpackaged produce. A 6’ high plexiglass shield must be erected between vendor and customer at point of sale.
> The market will provide hand sanitizer stations as indicated on the plan.
> 
> 3. Payments. Each vendor will designate a worker to handle sales. Electronic devices must be sanitized after every use. Tokens used by customers and distributed by the market will be sanitized prior to their distribution. Online prepaid orders made to specific farmers can be picked up at curbside.
> 
> 4. Signage
> Signage will be displayed explaining the operational ground rules to customers. Our volunteers and Market manager will be invaluable in overseeing the market operation.
> 
> John

Begin forwarded message
ORDER FURTHER EXTENDING THE CLOSING OF CERTAIN WORKPLACES
AND THE PROHIBITION ON GATHERINGS OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE

COVID-19 Order No. 30

Further Extending the Operation of COVID-19 Order No. 13

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19");

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization;

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2020, the Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency issued guidance to assist States in identifying critical infrastructure sectors whose workers provide services and functions that are essential to maintain in order to support a strong response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, I issued COVID-19 Order No. 13, which designated certain COVID-19 Essential Services, as defined in the Order, temporarily closed the bricks-and-mortar premises of businesses and organizations that do not provide COVID-19 Essential Services, and prohibited gatherings of more than 10 people;

WHEREAS, on March 31, 2020, I issued COVID-19 Order No. 21, which amended the earlier issued list of COVID-19 Essential Services and extended the operation of COVID-19 Order No. 13;

WHEREAS, the number of presumptive positive and confirmed cases of COVID-19 continues to rise in the Commonwealth. As of April 27, 2020, the Department of Public Health
had reported 56,462 cases of COVID-19, including 3,003 deaths, with all counties in the Commonwealth affected;

WHEREAS, the Federal Centers for Disease Control have advised that COVID-19 is spread mainly by person to person contact and that the best means of slowing the spread of the virus is through practicing social distancing and protecting oneself and others by minimizing personal contact with environments where the virus may be transmitted;

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health accordingly continues to urge all residents of the Commonwealth to limit activities outside of the home and to practice social distancing at all times to limit the spread of this highly contagious and potentially deadly virus; and

WHEREAS, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise any and all authority over persons and property necessary or expedient for meeting a state of emergency, including but not limited to authority over assemblages in order to protect the health and safety of persons, transportation and travel by any means or mode, regulating the sale of articles of food and household articles, and policing, protection, and preservation of public and private property;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby order the following:


Gatherings of more than 10 people also remain prohibited until May 18, 2020.

The Commissioner of Public Health shall continue to issue guidance as necessary and subject to my approval to implement the terms of COVID-19 Order No. 13.

The provisions of COVID-19 Order No. 21 that extended the operation of COVID-19 Order No. 13 until May 4, 2020 are hereby rescinded and superseded by this Order. Exhibit A to COVID-19 Order No. 13, as amended by COVID-19 Order No. 21, remains effective and is unchanged by this Order.
This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until May 18, 2020 unless further extended.

Given in Boston at 11:30 AM this 28th day of April, two thousand and twenty

[Signature]

CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
FOR FARMERS MARKETS, FARM STANDS AND CSAs

On March 10, 2020, Governor Charles D. Baker declared a state of emergency in the Commonwealth to respond to the spread of COVID-19. On March 11, 2020, in view of the grave threat that the spread of COVID-19 presents to the public health, the Public Health Council authorized and directed me to act pursuant to G. L. c. 17, § 2A and to take all appropriate actions, incur such liabilities, and establish such rules, requirements, and procedures necessary to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth.

On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued an Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth. As designated in the list of “COVID-19 Essential Services,” farmers markets, farm stands and CSAs are essential and will remain open. Additionally, farmers’ market employees, farm stand employees and CSA employees are deemed essential workers.

Therefore, in order to ensure access to a strong local food supply and enable farms to continue to grow, harvest and market safe, healthy and local fruits and vegetables, while additionally reducing exposure of shoppers and employees to COVID-19, and pursuant to the authority granted by G. L. c. 17, § 2A and with the approval of the Governor and the Public Health Council, Thereby issue the following Orders:

1) As indicated in the list of “COVID-19 Essential Services”, farmers markets, farm stands and CSAs may remain open.

2) Managers of Farmers’ Markets must limit the number of customers who can enter the market space at one time. Market Managers and individual vendors operating within a Farmers’ Market must remind customers of “social distancing”, maintaining a space of at least six (6) feet from one another while shopping at indoor or outdoor Farmers Markets, through signage at prominent locations and vendor tables, at access points and through verbal reinforcement.

3) Market managers and staff should cordon off farmers’ market perimeters to allow for clear entry and egress points.
4) Market managers and staff must monitor and control the number of customers allowed within farmers’ market areas and must allow no more than 10-15 customers per 1,000 square feet at any one time.

5) Lines that form outside of market entry points must be monitored and set-up in a way that customers maintain recommended distances between each other while waiting.

6) Market managers must employ signage, floor marks and cones to direct customers to maintain spacing requirements.

7) Local law enforcement should be notified and consulted if any issues arise concerning distancing or other physical security concerns at the market.

8) Signs must be posted to remind staff and customers that they should not visit the market when they are sick.

9) Market managers, staff and vendors must clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

10) Farmers’ markets, retail stands and CSAs are encouraged to promote transactions that employ pre-bagging of produce, online-orders and other methods that limit public interaction and minimize the time customers spend at vendor tables to enable customer flow and the maintenance of distancing guidelines.

11) Farmers’ markets may not offer product samples for on-site use or tasting in order to reduce opportunities for contamination and transmission of the virus.

12) Market managers and vendors should minimize the handling of produce and products by both staff and customers, and prohibit the touching of produce by customers at vendor tables and sales points.

13) Farmers’ market managers, market staff, as well as vendors and their employees, shall not perform bagging of produce if reusable bags are utilized until further notice. Vendors may choose to use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or single-use plastic bags during COVID-19 response operations in the Commonwealth.

14) Vendors should not use tablecloths in order to make it easier to clean and sanitize table surfaces. Vendors must clean and sanitize their displays, including their tables and items used to display produce at the end of every market during market operation. Markets are recommended to discontinue the use of display items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized.
15) Markets are encouraged to provide access to handwashing facilities, including those available in public restrooms, and alcohol based hand sanitizers for event staff and participants.

16) Market managers, staff and vendors must utilize face coverings or masks, as well as disposable gloves, at all times during market/CSoA operations. Customers are strongly encouraged to use masks or face coverings as per the CDC guidance.

17) Markets and vendors should minimize cash transactions. If more than one person is working the table, vendors should designate one person to handle money and another to handle produce/product.

This Order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until the State of Emergency is terminated by the Governor, or until rescinded by me, whichever shall happen first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
April 27, 2020
REVISED GUIDANCE EXTENDING THE ORDER BY THE GOVERNOR
PROHIBITING ASSEMBLAGES OF MORE THAN 10 PEOPLE AND ON-PREMISES
CONSUMPTION OF FOOD AND BEVERAGES

ISSUED MARCH 31, 2020

On March 23, 2020, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, issued an order (hereinafter, the Order) prohibiting gatherings of over 10 people. The Order rescinded and revoked the Governor’s earlier issued March 15, 2020 Order Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 25 People. On March 31, 2020, the Governor issued a further order (hereinafter, the Further Order) extending the closing of certain workplaces and the prohibition on gatherings of more than 10 people. The Further Order directs the Department of Public Health to issue this guidance to implement the terms of the Order and further provides that any violation of the guidance shall be treated as a violation of the Order.

1. Gatherings subject to the Order include, but are not limited to: community, civic, public, leisure, or faith-based events, sporting events, concerts, conferences, conventions, fundraisers, parades, fairs, festivals, weddings, funerals, and any similar event or activity that brings together 10 or more persons in any confined indoor or outdoor space.

2. The Order does not apply to public gatherings of more than 10 people in an unenclosed, outdoor space such as a park, athletic field, or parking lot, while permissible this type of gathering is not advised; provided, that individuals must follow social distancing protocols by remaining at least six feet apart.

3. The Order does not apply to normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, ferries, polling locations, grocery stores, farmers’ markets, food pantries, banks and pharmacies.

4. The Order does not apply to the operations or activities of any business or organization in its provision of “COVID-19 Essential Services” as those are defined in the Order and Exhibit A to the Order.

5. The Order does not apply to healthcare facilities.
6. The Order does not apply to dental or orthodontic offices performing emergency procedures; provided, that to the extent practicable employees and patients must implement social distancing protocols.

7. Any restaurant, bar, or establishment that offers food or beverages shall not permit on-premises consumption of food or beverages; however, such establishments are encouraged to continue to offer food for take-out and by delivery, provided, that they follow social distancing protocols that require individuals to stay at least six feet apart. Food service establishments may have more than 10 employees on premises to provide these take-out and delivery services, provided, that they follow social distancing protocols. This guidance applies to all food service establishments, including, but not limited to, food services establishments in hospitals, hotels, office buildings, and higher education institutions.

8. The Order applies to all athletic events. Athletic activities that bring participants into close, physical contact, whether they are conducted indoors or outdoors, are prohibited even when involving 10 or fewer people.

9. The Order does not apply to shelters (e.g., homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters) or organizations providing services and supports to a shelter.

10. The Order does not apply to temporary or permanent locations used for isolation and/or quarantine.

11. The Order does not apply to residential treatment programs or after-school programs.

12. The Order does not apply to residential schools for special needs students. The Order also does not apply to public and private elementary and secondary (K-12) schools in the Commonwealth, which are subject to the March 15, 2020 Order Temporarily Closing All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools, as may be subsequently amended, which suspended all normal in-person instruction and other educational operations.

13. The Order does not apply to the operation of child care programs in the Commonwealth, which are subject to the March 18, 2020 Order Temporarily Closing All Child Care Programs and Authorizing the Temporary Creation and Operation of Emergency Child Care Programs, as may be subsequently amended.

14. This guidance is effective March 24, 2020 at noon and shall remain in full force and effect through May 4, 2020, unless further extended.

15. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all persons are urged to maintain social distancing (six feet away from other people) whenever possible and to continue to wash hands, utilize hand sanitizer and practice proper respiratory etiquette.

16. Regardless of whether an event or gathering falls within the scope of the Order, all higher risk individuals should avoid close contact with other individuals. Higher risk individuals
include older adults, anyone with underlying health conditions, such as heart or lung disease or diabetes, anyone with weakened immune systems, and anyone who is pregnant.

17. Violations of this order shall be punished in the following manner: (a) the first offense shall result in a warning; (b) the second offense may result in a civil citation and a fine of up to $300; and (c) further offenses which are repeated and willful may be subject to criminal penalties including a fine up to $500 or term of imprisonment or both.

Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

March 31, 2020
Farmers' Markets, Farm Stands, & CSAs Guidance Memo #5

Considerations for Fruit and Vegetable Growers Related to Coronavirus & COVID-19

The current COVID-19 pandemic is a common concern and many are wondering what they can and should do. The information here is intended to help guide the fruit and vegetable farming community. If you have concerns or suggestions please contact the MDAR Produce Safety Team at Michael.Botelho@mass.gov or via phone at (508) 985-8751, or UMASS Agricultural Extension Vegetable Program at lmckeaq@umass.edu or via phone at (413) 545-1051.

Background
COVID-19 is the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus ("the novel coronavirus"). Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may appear 2-14 days after exposure. While the majority of COVID-19 illnesses are mild, it can result in severe and fatal illness, particularly in the elderly and among those with severe underlying health conditions. Federal and State agencies are working hard to better understand the virus, how to control its spread, and how to treat those infected. One of the key things we can all do is to limit and slow the spread of COVID-19 to provide time for this understanding to develop and to not overwhelm the medical system. Much more information is available at the CDC Situational Summary page.

Foodborne Exposure to COVID-19 (As of 3/24/20)
Unlike foodborne gastrointestinal (GI) viruses like norovirus and hepatitis A that often make people ill through contaminated food, SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19, is a virus that causes respiratory illness. Foodborne exposure to this virus is not known to be a routine transmission.

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. This includes between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Please visit www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-during-emergencies/food-safety-and-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19 for further information on COVID-19 and food.

Farmers' Markets/Farm Stands/CSAs in Massachusetts
Farmers' markets and farm stands (including Community Supported Agriculture farm stands (CSAs)) are primary sales outlets for many Massachusetts farms. Maintaining and increasing access to local food is essential, particularly in times of unsteadiness. Local farming may fill a critical void in food distribution patterns if the response to COVID-19 increases and growing regions located in the Western U.S. experience production and distribution challenges. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, along with its State and Federal partners, are focused on enabling farm stands and farmer markets to sell safe, healthy and local products during the COVID-19 response. Our aim continues to be the support of the many farms that will be entering the production season so they are able to provide fresh farm products to the residents, retail markets and restaurants in the Commonwealth.
What are some best practices for farmers’ markets/farm stands and other local produce/farm product disbursement sites to limit the spread of COVID-19?

1. **Social Distancing:** Market managers should increase the space between vendors to assist in patron flow and reduce crowding at vendor stations. Setting up vendor tables in a straight run or “L” formation should assist visitors in maintaining a safe distance as they visit the market. Market managers may also consider limiting the number of customers who can enter the market space at one time based on visitation rates. Markets are strongly encouraged to remind customers of “social distancing”, maintaining a space of at least six feet from one another while shopping at farmer markets, through signage at prominent locations and vendor tables and through verbal reinforcement. As a reminder, Market staff, vendors and customers should:
   1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
   2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
   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.

2. **Product Samples:** Farmers’ markets should eliminate the offer of samples of products to reduce opportunities for contamination during COVID-19 response in the Commonwealth.

3. **Minimize the Number of Touches:** Market managers and vendors should minimize the handling of produce and products by both staff and customers disallowing the touching of product at vendor tables and sales points. Vendors are encouraged to facilitate reduced handling by utilizing small produce/product displays and lists on signage or chalkboards to communicate product lists and availability while keeping produce for sale in larger bins that are covered and out of reach of customers. Online ordering via email or pre-bagged orders are options that can be considered by markets/vendors as well as drive-up systems.

4. **The use of reusable bags:** Farmers’ market managers, market staff, as well as vendors and their employees, shall not perform bagging of produce if reusable bags are utilized until further notice. Vendors may choose to use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or single-use plastic bags during COVID-19 response operations in the Commonwealth.

5. **Should farms/vendors be disinfecting produce?** As noted above, there is no indication that COVID-19 is transmitted via produce. The virus is thought to be spread mainly from person to person according to the CDC. For most farms the level of operational change and amount of disinfectant needed to disinfect produce is unrealistic. If you are using a disinfectant on produce, please follow the instructions located on the label of the product to find directions on the proper use of the product.

6. **Market/Vendor Display cleaning/sanitizing:** 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. 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. Markets are recommended to discontinue the use of display items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized. The virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19) can be stable for several hours to days on surfaces, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel [https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces).

7. **Can Markets/vendors use bleach as a sanitizing agent on contact surfaces?** Yes, you can also follow the CDC guidance and use a mixture of bleach and water (5 tbsp per gallon or 4 tsp per quart).

8. **What should Markets/CSAs and vendors use for disinfection and sanitizing?** The EPA has provided a list of disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19. Very few of these products are common on the farm and may be hard to find. If you are currently using a sanitizer as part of a standard cleaning and sanitizing procedure for hard surfaces on your farm, you can use the produce at Market or on bins and containers
used for CSA deliveries. Consider reviewing the label for that product and using it for disinfection of specific high-touch surfaces if applicable.

9. **Hand washing/hygiene:** Markets are encouraged to make available supplies for event staff and participants to promote personal hygiene practice during COVID-19 response, including but not limited to portable sinks equipped with soap and paper towels, hand sanitizers and paper towels. Hand washing stations can be brought in by the market for customer and vendor use. Hand sanitizer stations can be useful, though should not be used as a replacement for handwashing. (Masks are not recommended for healthy adults unless they are caring for someone with COVID-19.)

10. **Gloves:** Market managers, staff and vendors must utilize disposable gloves at all times during market/CSA operations. Gloves can provide a barrier between hands and produce, preventing transmission of pathogens. They can also be a good reminder not to touch your face. Remember however, that gloves can be a source of contamination if not used properly. Follow [CDC glove removal guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/). Please remember to follow hand washing guidelines recommended by the CDC before putting on gloves and between glove change-outs.

11. **Money Handling:** Markets and vendors should minimize cash transactions. If more than one person is working the table, vendors should designate one person to handle money and another to handle produce/product. Vendors can round their prices to the nearest dollar so they can reduce the acceptance of coins, and minimize the handling of change. Wipe down credit card readers and POS equipment periodically and between transactions. Online payment application platforms used on smartphones, such as Venmo or PayPal, are a viable option to facilitate transactions at markets and farm stands.

12. **Establish Relationships:** Communicate with key community partners such as local health departments and the site host of your market and collaborate with them on broader planning efforts during COVID-19 response.

13. **Plan for Cancellations:** Identify actions to take if you need to cancel the market, such as communications with customers and vendors. Share planned closure communication strategy and channels with vendors in advance. If you do need to close, consider alternative ordering and distribution methods. Consider suspending penalties for last minute vendor cancellations.

14. **Customer/Consumer Education and Outreach:** Keep market staff, vendors and customers updated on market information and guidelines and ensure folks who are sick stay home. Emphasize that protecting public health is paramount to your market and describe any changes to market procedures to prevent the spread of infection. Use health messages and materials developed by credible public health sources such as your local public health department, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or CDC/NIH to encourage your event staff and participants to practice good personal health habits. Let your customers know what steps you are taking to keep them and your market venue/farm stand/CSA safe.

**Future Updates**

This information is based on what we know now and will be updated as we learn more.
