TFM COVID 19 Operations Proposal

The Tulsa Farmers' Market (TFM) respectfully requests the Tulsa Health Department to approve it’s operations and CV-19 safety protocol for markets beginning July 18th. TFM is an essential agricultural business comprised of over 70 small businesses, and a necessary partner in providing Tulsans with access to fresh, local and nutritious food. TFM has been connecting customers with growers for 23 years, and as a 501c3 it also provides healthy eating education and facilitates various programs supporting the health of our community such SNAP, Double Up Food Bucks, Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, and other healthy eating incentives.

POLICY

Farmers Markets were classified as essential in the Executive Order issued by Governor Stitt’s office on 3/25/20.

PROPOSED PRACTICES

There have been a variety of resources and best practices put together as to how farmers markets can adjust their operations to minimize risk to the public of transmission of COVID-19. We have drawn on those resources and synthesized these practices into a list of recommendations below, and will continue to update it as new strategies emerge:

Market Operations

*Please note TFM already operates outside in direct sunlight*

- Market format has been redesigned to allow for more space between vendors promoting social distancing. There is a minimum of 10ft between each vendor.

- All staff, vendors & customers are required to wear face coverings while at TFM

- We reserve the first hour of market (7-8am) for our high risk shoppers.

- Staff is required to socially distance from customers to the best of their ability, and will help remind customers to socially distance if groups are forming anywhere within the market.

- TFM will provide social distancing signs & hand sanitizer to all vendor booths for public use.
• All nonessential programming, display or partner booths, and interactive activities, such as kids crafts and live music are canceled.

• Enact a zero-tolerance policy for coming to market when sick, for both staff and vendors.

• Vendors and staff are required to wipe down high touch areas, such as tables, screens and cash boxes, with sanitizer frequently.

Customer Expectations

• Customers must maintain safe distances from each other, preferably 6+ feet apart. Signage, colorful tape, or other visual cues throughout the market will be used to remind them.

• Customers are to stay home if they are sick themselves, have possibly been exposed to COVID-19, and/or are high risk.

• Customers are required to wear masks.

• Customers are asked to come alone to market when possible; Please leave family, friends, and spouses at home.

• The following safety practices are recommended to customers:
  • Thoroughly wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds, and if not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
  • Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
  • Sneeze or cough into a tissue or into the crease of your elbow
  • Wash all produce thoroughly when you get home
  • Wash your reusable produce bags between market visits

Vendor Practices

• All vendors and their workers MUST wear a face covering while at market.

• Vendors handling money, tokens or vouchers should not handle food products until they have washed their hands, used sanitizer and/or changed gloves. Booths are encouraged to have two workers, one person to handle and bag purchases for customers, while a second person handles money and transactions.

• Vendors are required to stay home when sick or if at risk.

• Vendors and staff are required to wipe down high touch areas, such as tables, screens and cash boxes, with sanitizer frequently.

• While hand washing is the most effective way to cut down on disease transmission via touch, staff and vendors are encouraged to wear disposable gloves that they change frequently.
Vendors are required to socially distance from customers to the best of their ability, and will help remind customers to socially distance if groups are forming around their tents.

Thank you for your consideration.
For questions, contact Kris Hutto, TFM Executive Director: kristin@tulsafarmersmarket.org