

**BOH**

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**From:** West Tisbury Farmers Market <westtisburyfarmersmarket@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:49 AM  
**To:** Omar Johnson  
**Subject:** Farmers Market Season 2020  
**Attachments:** MDAR-Bulletin-5-FarmersMarket-CSA-FarmStand-Guidance.pdf; att15603.htm

Hi Omar,

We'd like to continue the conversation about the upcoming 2020 Farmers Market season.

According to a recent bulletin from the Mass Department of Agriculture (full doc attached to this email) ...

"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."

Recognizing that farmers markets have been deemed "essential" by the state, and important role our farmers market plays in our local food supply system, we are forging ahead with a plan that reinvents our market season to conform to the current Covid-19 atmosphere. We will be needing your input at the BOH, of course, but we have started to develop a set of best practices based on cues from from MDAR, The Farmers Market ext. of MDAR, as well as other markets around the state and nation.

The following lays out the broad strokes of our current strategy....

**Location:**

The Ag Hall - In order to implement distancing measures for our vendors and customers, we need more space than the Grange Hall can supply. The Ag Society has agreed to host us on their grounds this season. We are currently working to identify the exact location.

**Layout:**

Vendor tents will be spaced 10-12' apart side to side. This space to be left open or used to park a vehicle to create a physical barrier.

Widened customer alleyways between the vendor rows of 40-50' to allow for longer line lengths, traffic flow as a result of 6' distancing measures.

Establish a secure perimeter with one point of entrance/exit where we can monitor flow in/out of market. This will enable us to keep count and control customer numbers if deemed necessary.

**Parking:**

Additional parking, as compared to the Grange that will allow for distancing between parked cars. We will make use of the lower existing parking lot at the Ag Hall, adjacent to Panhandle Road. Additional parking will be established off the State Rd side, entering onto Jane's Fair Way.

### **Vendor Protocol:**

Any vendor feeling at all sick must not attend market.

All vendors must wear masks and gloves at all times.

Vendors will be encouraged to have one person handling products and one handling money, those positions will not switch during market.

Vendors cannot handle reusable bags. Items will either be placed in a new bag or handed to customer for them to place in their own bags.

There will be no samples.

Vendors will be encouraged to set up online ordering systems allowing for pre-packing of bags and faster turn around for customers.

Vendors will be encouraged to use surfaces that can be easily sanitized and to have those surfaces sanitized before, during and after market.

Hand washing stations w/ soap, hand sanitizer and paper towels will be available at different locations throughout market.

### **Customer Protocol**

Any customer feeling at all sick must not attend market.

All customers must be wearing masks and gloves.

Customers must maintain a social distance of 6' or more at all time.

Customer numbers inside market may be monitored, if determined by BOH.

Customers will be encouraged to plan ahead, using online ordering platforms when possible and shopping one person/household

Trash and recycling will not be supplied, customers will be expected to carry in/carry out.

Customers will be discouraged from lingering. There will be no musical acts or seating this season.

### **Communication**

All the above will require a lot of outreach through signage, ads, our social media platforms and website, as well as many conversations. Olivia and I, as market managers, will be on site at every market to oversee and

enforce these best practices. We will be relying on additional support from our market committee and the Ag Society.

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We understand that this is a fluid situation and expect procedures to evolve as more information becomes available about the nature of COVID-19. We want to work as closely as possible with the BOH and other town agents to refine this plan and to create a safe market environment. Please let us know what else we can do to move forward with our planning. What further information do you need/would like to have from us as this time?

We also have our vendor BOH applications ready for your review. Please let us know when you are available to receive those.

Thank you for all the hard work, Omar, you deserve a medal. We look forward to speaking with you.

-Collins

Collins Heavener  
Co-Manager  
West Tisbury Farmers Market  
508 939 4033