

the *Gateway* York Farmers' Market

Revised May 24, 2020

- **Beginning June 6, 2020**, The York Gateway Summer Farmers' Market will open for the season. Vendors are limited to Agriculture, Prepared Food, Horticultural Products, and Soap. Vendors who sell soap are not allowed to sell any other retail product during the month of June.
- **Beginning July 4, 2020** Craft Vendors will be allowed to participate as space is available.

All agricultural and prepared food vendors that paid to participate in May will be refunded for those two dates. Crafters who paid to attend prior to July 4, will be refunded for missed dates. Weekly vendors will be offered the opportunity to switch to other dates if room is available. The full season option is restricted to Agriculture and Prepared Food only. Craft vendors may participate weekly up to 10 weeks from July 4 – Oct. 10.

Thank you all for patiently waiting for the York Gateway Summer Farmers' Market rules to be established. We have asked for guidance with opening from our State Inspector, Ronda Stone. We have investigated the rules that other markets have implemented to keep vendors, employees and customers as safe as possible. All rules below are very much inline with other area markets. All vendor and customer rules are subject to change as required by executive order.

As a chamber of commerce that also hosts a farmers' market, it has been more of a challenge for us regarding staffing, restroom facilities and our opening date for the market because of the current executive order. Although farmers' markets are defined as essential business, the chamber of commerce is not deemed essential and we are not allowed to have our building open until after July 1. The chamber of commerce building may remain closed during all market dates throughout the 2020 Summer season. I have been granted permission to allow one restroom to be open in the building for vendor use only. There will not be customer restrooms available at all this season.

Vendors who have been exposed to COVID19 or have family members who have been exposed to the virus must not participate in the market. If you, your family members or employees are experiencing fever, cough, runny nose, headaches or any symptom that is causing illness of any kind you must not participate at the market.

Enclosed is a list of guidelines that must be followed by all vendors, employees and customers. Any vendor, employee or customer who is not following the set rules will be asked to leave the market. The rules below are in addition to the regular market rules. All vendors are expected to still follow the regular market rules along with the new information included in this document. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

VENDOR RULES:

- All vendors are required to wear masks and gloves throughout the market day and are responsible for providing their own masks and gloves.
- All vendors are required to have a hand wash station or hand sanitizer at each booth for employees and customers to use throughout the market day.
- All vendors must sanitize all tables and equipment regularly throughout the market day.
- Vendors are allowed one employee to handle food and one employee to handle money per vendor booth.
- All vendors must practice the 6' physical distancing rules with customers and other vendors.
- Vendor booths must be set up with barriers such as tables or rope fences to maintain distance and prevent customers from touching food and products. The Market Manager will place cones or marks at each booth where customers must line up to make purchases. The market is limited to **50** customers at a time during the month of June, so Vendors are responsible for quick customer transactions to keep customer traffic flowing quickly.
- Vendors are encouraged to put up plastic barriers between booth spaces (not required).
- Vendors cannot allow customers to touch non-packaged food or products. Vendors must pre-package food whenever possible, and if food or products are not pre-packaged, must bag all food and products for customers.
- Food sampling is not allowed.
- All vendors are encouraged to have a person handling payments who will not be touching the products. Vendors must encourage contactless payment such as containers to receive cash and checks, contactless credit card readers, or prepayment by phone or invoice. Anyone handling payments must wear gloves and must either wash and dry their hands or use hand sanitizer between any crossover from products to payments, and vice versa. Gloves are required to be changed whenever the possibility of cross contamination has occurred.
- All Vendors are strongly encouraged to establish a process allowing customers to order and pay ahead of time, then just pick up at the market.
- All Vendors are expected to know and comply with all federal and state orders and all recommendations from public health authorities regarding face masks and coverings, personal hygiene, PPE, physical distancing, and other safety measures for essential businesses.
- Only agricultural and prepared food vendors will be allowed to have a vehicle present at the booth space. Beginning July 4, all other vendors must park vehicles in the designated vendor parking area. No Exceptions.
- All vendors are required to follow the attendance rules listed in the market rules and regulations.

CUSTOMER RULES:

- All market customers will enter and exit the market from the main gate entrance. All other entrances and exits will be blocked off.
- **The market can only allow 50 customers** in the market at any time during the month of June. The number of customers may increase after July 1, 2020 but that has not been confirmed as of yet. All customers, vendors, and volunteers must maintain 6' physical distancing at all times, including while waiting to enter the market. For this reason, the market cannot allow any congregation or lingering at the market and customers are strongly encouraged to limit the number of household members attending the market.

- The market manager will offer hand sanitizer to all entering and exiting the market.
- All customers will be required to wear a mask to enter the market. Anyone refusing to wear a mask will not be allowed admittance into the market. The Executive Order states that individuals with health issues preventing them from wearing a mask are not required to wear one. York Gateway Farmers' Market is private property and reserves the right to refuse entrance to the market to anyone who is not wearing a mask regardless of the reason.
- To help minimize crowds' strollers are not allowed within the footprint of the market.
- Although the market is a family friendly event, for safety we encourage children not to attend.
- The market is a pet free/ smoke free event. ADA trained service animals will be allowed. Emotional support animals are not allowed.
- Customers cannot attend the market if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or are showing any symptoms of illness.
- Customers cannot sample or consume any food or beverages within the market grounds.
- Customers are not allowed to touch food or products until after purchase. Customers must wait at the marked spot at each booth for their turn to be served. Vendors will package all food and products for customers.
- Customers will not be permitted to mingle and are encouraged to shop as quickly as possible as a courtesy to others waiting to enter the market.
- We are unable to provide community events during this civil emergency, such as musical performances, demonstrations, non-profit tabling, etc.
- Bathroom facilities will not be available for customers. Customers will not be allowed to enter the chamber building.
- **Customers are encouraged to contact vendors directly to inquire about pre-purchase options and attend the market only to pick-up food and products.**

The Gateway Farmers' Market reserves the right to change, remove or add to the above list of safety rules as rules change with the Town of York and the State of Maine. All rules are subject to change. Vendors will be notified as the rules are revised.

Questions?

Contact Holly Roberts, holly@yorkme.org or

Ronda H Stone

Consumer Protection Inspector

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Link for license application: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/qar/permits_and_licenses/application_forms.shtml

Link for UMaine: <https://umaine.edu/foodandagriculture/process-product-review-testing/>

Link for Recipe to Market: <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/3101e/>