

April 17, 2020

To All Ohio Farmers' Market Managers,

It has come to the attention of the Ohio Department of Agriculture that there is confusion concerning farmers' markets being allowed to operate with the restrictions on mass gatherings. The Amended Director's Stay at Home Order signed on April 2, 2020, identified farmers' markets along with farm and produce stands as essential businesses. As essential businesses, they must adhere to the provisions in the Order concerning social distancing. At a minimum, essential businesses must comply with the required measures of the Order. They are:

- Designate six-foot distances between people
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products are to be readily available for employees and customers
- Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations
- Online and remote access; post online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely

The recommendations created by the Ohio Farmers' Market Network appear to be good compliance guidelines for farmers' markets. Following these recommendations should result in a farmers' market complying with the required measures contained in the Order. The second attachment contains the most current recommendations from the Ohio Farmers' Market Network.

Sincerely,

Terri Gerhardt
Chief, Division of Food Safety
Ohio Department of Agriculture