

KINGWOOD FARMERS MARKETS & COVID-19

As it currently stands Kingwood Farmers Market is considered to be a critical healthy food access point during the COVID-19 crisis and will remain open. The continuation of the farmers' market's ability to supply fresh, local food to the Kingwood community relies on both our vendors and our shoppers following a critical new set of health and safety guidelines that are outlined below. Due to the need for increased social distancing, consumption of food on-site and our market layouts are going to look different

This is critical, we need everyone to treat the farmers' market as you would a grocery store. All food will be packaged to go and we ask that you pick up your products and leave. Do not idle at the market and do not consume any food or beverages on site.

Please read below to understand our shopper guidelines and the steps our vendors are taking to decrease the spread of COVID-19 in our local community. If we act safely together, it is less likely that the markets will be shut down in the future. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to our Market Manager Tony Austin at 713-628-1886 or tonyaust2000@yahoo.com

SHOPPERS ATTENDING OUR MARKETS:

We encourage everyone who is healthy and feels safe to visit our farmers' markets in order to procure healthy, local food from area farmers, ranchers and small businesses. But we ask that you follow these strict guidelines:

- Wash your hands for 20 seconds upon arrival at the market and frequently as you move throughout the space. We will have an increased number of handwashing stations and hand sanitizer and all vendors are required to display hand sanitizer in each booth.
- We are instituting 5 ft. of space between each vendor booth. These are not walkways, but distancing measures. **DO NOT CONGREGATE HERE.**
- Maintain at least an arm's length distance between other shoppers and vendors, especially while you are waiting in line.
- Do NOT greet anyone at the market with hugs or handshakes.
- Avoid touching your face.
- No hand-to-hand contact will be allowed between vendors and shoppers. Point to the product that you would like, allow the vendor to bag it and set it down on the table before you pick it up.
- Do not hand vendors payments directly. Place cash and credit cards on the table for vendors to pick up. Many of our vendors use [Apple Pay](#), which allows you to hover your phone (but NOT TOUCH) it over their wifi-enabled reader. If you are able, we encourage you to set up Apple Pay on your smartphone before you arrive and use this as a payment method. If you do use this method of payment, please sanitize your phone before you arrive and after you leave the market.
- Anyone who is feeling unwell in any way should stay home.
- Any shopper who is at a higher risk, including individuals who are over 65 and/or with underlying health conditions, should stay home.

VENDORS ATTENDING OUR MARKETS:

We are putting these measures in place with the guidance of the Harris County's Stay Home Work Safe guidelines which were recently published. KFM and our vendors must follow these guidelines, and the additional guidelines below, to ensure a safe market for all stakeholders, and so that we can remain a viable market outlet for all our valued vendors as we move through and navigate this pandemic:

The following rules are requirements for all vendors:

- *No samples of any kind allowed.*
- No communal, self-serve areas.
- Hand Sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) at every booth, provided by the vendor, for customers and employees. **Vendors who do not have hand sanitizer available, will be required to breakdown and vacate market.**
- All booths will be 5 feet apart to maximize space and minimize clustering from each other, and layouts will reflect this. Our markets will have some layout irregularities as a result. Some vendors will have to move from their typical spots. We appreciate everyone's understanding as we work through this.
- Vendors and Customers are not allowed to occupy the 5-foot spaces between booths.
- All vendors must wash hands at least once per hour.
- TFM will be providing additional handwashing stations at our markets, open to all staff, vendors, and customers.
- No tablecloths, vendors sanitize surfaces at least once per hour.
- Vendors bag items for customers, then put the bag down, let customer pick up bag; same with payment; no hand to hand contact.
- Anyone who is feeling unwell should stay home – employees must be sent home if they exhibit internal body temperature of 100.4 °F or higher.
- Any vendor who is at higher risk, including individuals over 65 and/or with underlying health conditions, should stay home.

For Prepared Food Vendors Only:

- All Prepared Food Vendors must give hot foods to customers in to-go containers only, with the expectation that it will be consumed offsite.