

AFMA FACT SHEET



COVID / CORONA VIRUS PRECAUTIONS FOR MARKET MANAGERS

With concern developing internationally about Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and the Australian Government announcing it considers there may be a risk of a pandemic AFMA would like to draw your attention to some key best practice principles for ensuring health and safety at your farmers' market.

While risks are still considered low, market places attract many people so it is important to be aware of preventative actions that can help mitigate the spread of disease. The measures suggested are basic and sensible. Remember shopping in the fresh air for fresh farm-grown food is one sure way of staying healthy!

AFMA wishes to convey to market managers, stallholders and shoppers the need to consider the health of your fellow market-goers.

Transmission via hands and human contact is the most common route of infection, just as for colds and flu. Anti-bacterial handwash, and hand washing with soap (for 20 seconds or more) is effective and needs to be practised more regularly than usual, whether you are a stallholder or shopper.

RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONARY ACTIONS

- Markets are routinely required to provide handwashing facilities. In addition, it is recommended that anti-bacterial handwash be supplied at focal locations in the market – the entry points, information desk etc. Market managers should request stallholders to provide hand sanitizer on their stall.
- Protective masks should be on hand at the first aid station if any market participant is observed to have viral symptoms (coughing etc) These are to be provided as a courtesy to customers/ stallholders that may be exhibiting symptoms.
- Stallholders exhibiting symptoms prior any market day should not attend the market until the symptoms dissipate and the affected person follows self-isolation or medical advice.

- Covid-19 symptoms include (but are not limited to) fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath. Covid-19 most often begins with a temperature of 37.3 degrees centigrade (99 F) or more and is contagious from the first sign of illness.
- If you are concerned about your health or that of other stallholders or shoppers please contact the market manager, your GP or the Government's 24-hour *healthdirect* advice line 1800 022 222.
- If you have any reason to believe that a stallholder or a visitor to the site may have been exposed to a person who may have Covid-19, please immediately withdraw / ask that person to withdraw to a location away from interaction with others and inform the market manager.
- For updates please refer to www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert or contact your respective state health authorities.

MARKET NUMBERS

The government has announced that from Monday 16 March 'non-essential events' attracting 500+ participants should preferably not be held. Many farmers' markets in regional areas will fall under this visitation level. Markets that regularly attract more than 500 shoppers may not host in excess of that number at any one time.

It is suggested that market managers arrange a clicker count at the market entry/ies to monitor numbers of people on site (including stallholders).

As required, managers may need to introduce access checks to ensure that no more than 500 people are within the market perimeter. This can be done in several ways:

Clicker Count

Count numbers onto/ off site and monitor access to control total number within recommended limit. Ensure any queued shoppers maintain the safe 1.5m distance.

Time Cards

Distribute colour-coded timed entry cards, allowing maximum 60 mins site access for shopping. This will assist spread any shopper peaks. These will need to be distributed from monitored entry/ exit points.

FOOD SAMPLING

For the time being it is recommended that stallholders withdraw open food sampling.

SNEEZE GUARDS

Market managers are requested to oversee the compliant installation of sneeze guards at stalls requiring this protection.

COFFEE CUPS

Market managers are to encourage the use of vendor provided disposable (recyclable) cups to mitigate risks. Market coffee stalls supplying 'market day mugs' and onsite wash facilities should cease this practice for the time being.

COMMUNITY SEATING

Market managers are recommended to not install community-use tables and chairs for the time being. This is to assist recommended social distancing.

SAFE DISTANCE

Shoppers are requested to keep a safe distance (1.5m) if queuing to purchase food.

WASTE

Waste management routinely requires the responsible disposal of all food and packaging waste. Market managers should ensure these practices are followed and that waste is not left un-binned on the market site.

CLEANING

Please request that host venues or market staff undertake rigorous cleaning of on-site toilet and any other shared facilities (storage areas etc).

UPDATES

The circumstances and public health guidance surrounding safe health practice in relation to Covid-19 are changing frequently. AFMA is monitoring available public information and will post significant developments of the AFMA Facebook page in the first instance. Please like and check posts regularly.

We ask all market managers, stallholders and shoppers to act responsibly to offer maximum common sense reduction of risk at this challenging time. Farmers' markets are a fundamental link in our healthy food chain and no more than now should we be eating fresh healthy food. What's more, we need to support our farmers and artisan food producers many of whose livelihoods depend on their weekly trading at farmers' markets.

Sell and shop local, sell and shop seasonal and healthy food, sell and shop in the fresh air and – shop with you own trolley!

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AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' MARKETS ASSOCIATION

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