

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.

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.

KEEP CUPS

Market managers are to encourage the use of shopper provided BYO keep cups for all onsite beverage service. Market coffee stalls supplying 'market day mugs' and onsite wash facilities should cease this practice for the time being. Disposable cups (recyclable) are favoured.

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 facilities, communal tables and chairs.

AUSTRALIAN FARMERS' MARKETS ASSOCIATION

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www.farmersmarkets.org.au