

Town of Middlebury
Emergency Management Bulletin
April 24, 2020

Farmers Market Guidance, Effective May 1

Farmers markets may open using limited in-person operations to ensure consumer access to quality, healthy food if:

- They adhere to all municipal ordinances and rules and their local municipality agrees to allow opening.
- Markets must significantly alter their business practices to eliminate crowds and reduce contact between vendors and customers including a temporary transition away from shopping and social events to primarily a food distribution using the methods prescribed as follows:
- No more than one customer per 200 square feet (10' X 20') and a maximum of 10 total people including customers and staff.
- Retailers shall take steps to schedule or stage customer visits, such as waiting in cars until ready, to ensure no congregation.
- Social distancing and facial coverings are required at all times.
- Markets are directed to use a “pre-order, local food pick-up” model and to follow any additional guidance by the Agency of Agriculture and Food Markets.

Go to: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>

Some of these guidelines may be difficult to strictly apply in a farmer’s market setting- they are more appropriate to an inside, enclosed retail space. We suggest more spacing between canopies, make the midway as wide as can be and keep in mind the intent to avoid community-wide transmission through social distancing and masking.

Spigot Opening and Updated Business Guidelines Effective April 27

Use this link <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order> to get full details of what can be opened and rules that guide those openings. There are many new additions to last week’s order and the spigot has been turned open a bit more.

Unsafe at Home? Need Help?

Domestic and sexual violence can happen any time, and in the current environment, social distancing rules don't prevent it. One downside of "Stay-At Home- Stay Safe" is that we see the dark side of relationships erupt. But there is help. Womensafe has created a six week virtual support group for anyone who has or is experiencing domestic or sexual violence. Mondays 5:30 pm- 6:30 pm or Thursdays from noon to 1:00 p.m. It starts the week of April 27. For more information contact Christina or Jena at Womensafe at 802-388-4205 of cg@womensafe.net or jena@womensafe.net.

On The Bright Side...

During this crisis there are many unrecognized acts of kindness. Governor Phil Scott wants to recognize these individuals who have given of themselves to render the current unpleasantness a bit easier to bear. Go to: governor.vermont.gov/governor-scotts-blog/acts-kindness to read his statement and to nominate someone.

Supply Chain (updated 4/22):

Bread – Supply is available, but in limited varieties. It will likely be 3-4 weeks before the supply fully recovers.

Flour - There is plenty of wheat, but milling capacity is limited. Supplies are catching up with an Easter surge.

Sugar - Stretched milling capacity and a poor sugar beet crop are impacting supply.

Milk – There is ample supply.

Eggs – The supply is improving, and the price is lower.

Cheese – The supply is improving.

Paper & Bath Tissue – The supply of paper towels is improving, while bath tissue sells as fast as it gets on the shelf. Stores are stocking 40% more bath tissue and 60% more paper towels than in pre-pandemic weeks. Demand continues to be high, but supply is increasing.

Wipes, Hand Sanitizer, Isopropyl Alcohol – The sanitizer supply is improving, but still struggles to meet increased demand.

Meat – The supply is okay for now but will be constrained in the future due to processing shutdowns. The longer-term outlook will depend on how fast plants recover. The standard assortment has (and is) challenged, but an extended network of suppliers is meeting the increased demand.

Produce, Deli, Bakery – There is ample supply.

Pasta/Canned Veggies/Box Prepared Products – Supply is coming in regularly and should be improving.

Link to stores providing designated store hours and alternative shopping methods:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b859U4ovN_JDO0c_8HQwu6n1cYi0NZcEro6CQGd388/edit#gid=0

Informative Links Regarding Masks and PPE in the Workplace

Addressing PPE needs in a non-healthcare setting:

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/22/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-addressing-ppe-needs-non-healthcare-setting>

VDH information on masks-wearing them, finding them, cleaning them:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/Help-Slow-the-Spread-of-COVID-19-By-Wearing-Cloth-Face-Mask-April-23-2020>

Latest Stats

No new cases in Addison County this week!

As of noon on April 24, the total cumulative cases statewide – 1 new case, the total is now at 827. 12 people are currently hospitalized statewide for CV-19. 15,133 people have either been tested or have completed monitoring.