

Guidance for Community Farmers Markets During COVID-19

Community farmers markets are a vital link in bringing the bounty of fresh agricultural products from New Jersey's farms to consumers around the state. They are especially important in making sure that consumers who do not have ready access to fresh fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products in what the USDA refers to as "food deserts."

As New Jersey moves forward in addressing the needs of its residents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture is committed to helping the state's approximately 140 community farmers markets continue to bring fresh fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products to the widest number of consumers, with an emphasis on ensuring that these farmers markets can operate as safely as possible to avoid COVID-19 spread.

Community farmers market managers can benefit from a guide put together by the University of Florida's Extension Service and shared through Rutgers University's Extension Service. It can be found at: https://onfarmfoodsafety.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/UF-Farmers-Market_COVID-19_031620.pdf (If you receive a "verification failed" notice, simply hit the "Skip Verification" option.)