



## COVID-19 Farmers Market Advocacy Toolkit

The following tools and information have been created and aggregated to support you in advocating for farmers markets to remain open during emergency orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [COVID-19 Guidelines and Operational Practices for Farmers Market](#)
- [Sample email language to advocate to keep local farmers markets open.](#)
- [COVID-19 Strategic Advocacy Worksheet](#) - The Strategic Advocacy Toolkit from Community Food Strategies is designed to support communities in making plans to advocate for food system issues. This version has been made with suggested actions for farmers market advocacy during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [What we are doing at CFSA.](#)
- Please share the hashtag **#farmersmarketsaregrocerystores** on social media with any of the resources provided here.

### North Carolina

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(“FAQ”\) for Executive Order No. 131](#) (Effective Monday, April 13, 5 PM)
  - **Which retail businesses are covered by this Executive Order?**

This Executive Order (“the Order”) applies to any business in which customers enter to purchase goods or services, including, but not limited to, grocery stores, big box retail stores, pharmacies, ABC stores, banks, hardware stores, and vehicle dealerships. **The Order does not apply to outdoor farmers markets.** Retail businesses that have been closed by previous Executive Orders or by orders of their local governments are not permitted to reopen.
- [Frequently Asked Questions for Executive Order No. 117](#) - This provides some clarity from NCDHHS around the emergency order. Farmers markets are considered retail establishments by the state the same as a grocery store.
  - From NCDHHS:
    - **Farmer’s Markets:** In NC, Farmers Markets fall under the same classification as grocery stores and are considered an important source of food for local communities. Farmers Markets who choose to operate during the COVID-19 outbreak are required to follow the same federal or state mandated directives as grocery stores on issues such as social distancing or crowd size (if indoor). In addition, restaurants located at farmers markets are also subject to Executive Order No. 118. Additional guidance regarding executive order 118 and the Secretary’s abatement order will be issued shortly.
  - From NCDA:
    - [Troxler applauds Homeland Security guidance that deems agriculture as critical infrastructure in response to COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 FAQ for Farmers Markets](#) from NC Cooperative Extension
- The Orange County Food Council has successfully advocated that Orange County allow farmers markets to reopen by April 3rd on county property. Similar work is underway with Durham City and County governments to hopefully reopen the Durham Farmers Market soon.
- [NC Policy Watch: As NC restrictions grow to fight a pandemic, many local farmers’ markets left in limbo](#)
- How the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project is operating its market in Asheville:

- *“In response to farmers market closures due to the COVID-19 emergency, ASAP has organized an interim outdoor farmers market on the campus of A-B Tech in Asheville, beginning this Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to noon. The new market will operate for as long as necessary, possibly expanding to other locations and days of the week as needed.*
- *The ASAP Farmers Market at A-B Tech is designed to protect shoppers and vendors and the market will enforce several safety procedures. The number of people in the market area at one time will be tightly controlled. Please approach from the end of Persistence Dr. (off Victoria Rd.), and remain queued in your vehicle until staff instructs you to park and move into the market. No walkups allowed. Social distances of six feet will be maintained between vendors and shoppers. Customers will select pre-packaged or bunched items and will not handle other product on vendor tables. Children, if they must attend with adult shoppers, must be closely supervised.*
- *To minimize potential virus transmission points, no payments will be transacted at the market. Purchases will be paid in a secure online portal after shopping. Credit, debit, and SNAP/EBT are accepted (no Double SNAP right now). ASAP will cover the risk for honor system payments, and farmers will be paid in full for all product sold. Customers will have the option to provide a donation to help cover operational costs and shortages.*
- Some markets are asking their municipalities and counties to provide personnel to monitor spacing, remind customers to maintain separation as necessary, and to provide needed masks, gloves, and sanitation stations.

#### South Carolina

- [COVID-19 Update](#) section from the S.C. Department of Agriculture will be updated as they continue to expand resources for farmers.
- More SC-specific information will continue to be shared as it becomes available.