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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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On March 23, 2020, Governor Northam issued Executive Order 53. This statewide order went into effect at 11:59 PM on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. This order mandates that all dining and congregation areas in certain foodservice establishments, including farmers markets, must close to the public. Delivery and/or takeout services are still allowed.

The Governor's Office and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) are NOT requiring farmers markets to close. **However, farmers markets should not be set up with booths to allow on-site browsing or shopping.**

The following guidance provides a means for farmers markets to operate in a capacity that allows delivery and/or takeout services:

- Establish a system for ordering ahead when possible
  - Utilize websites to facilitate orders either through an online ordering system or create a menu of available items and offer a phone number for ordering
  - If customers are unable to order ahead, establish an onsite process for taking orders that does not involve customers browsing from vendor to vendor
- Provide curbside pick-up, where possible, to allow customers to stay in their vehicles
- Comply with social distancing guidelines
  - While COVID-19 is not spread by food, continued action should be taken to prevent the person-to-person spread of the virus
- Adhere to the following food industry guidance
  - http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/environmental-health/environmental-healthservices/guidance-on-food-establishments-and-social-distancing/
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- Ensure all standard sanitary and hygiene practices are followed by market staff and vendors
- Promote no touch or low touch purchasing opportunities by pre-boxing or pre-bagging food items
- A mobile market could be used to reach communities with low food access but should comply with social distancing guidelines for customers shopping and follow all recommended hygiene and sanitation protocols

VDACS and the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry will do all that we can to support farmers markets and keep fresh, healthy foods available to communities throughout the Commonwealth. If you are a