

TRANSITIONAL PLANS FOR REOPENING THE SUN CITY FARMERS MARKET

Revision Date: May 3, 2020

For the safety of both our vendors and our customers, the WilCo Farmers Market plans the following practices and protocols for specifically dealing with the COVID-19 virus. These are intended to stay in place until such time as the appropriate government agencies issue an “all clear” instruction.

We intend to be in conformance with the guidelines issued by the CDC and those most recently issued by the governor of Texas.

Face masks: Currently most of the market vendors are wearing face masks during markets. While we will strongly encourage all to wear face masks we recognize there are situations where this is undesirable. We intend to encourage customers to wear face masks also. This can be a cooperative effort between the farmers market and Sun City.

Gloves: Some of the market vendors are using gloves today, but many do not. We do not think they are effective unless discarded after each transaction. We think a better practice is the regular use of hand sanitizer between customers. See below.

Hand sanitizer: Nearly all the vendors are bringing and using a hand sanitizer. These are still not easily obtained. We will encourage vendors to use the sanitizer after every transaction with a customer. Sanitizing needs to involve any surface potentially exposed to the virus including hands and cell phone surfaces when used in card transactions. In the same vein, customers will be asked to refrain from touching produce unless they are ready to buy a particular item. We will provide hand sanitizer resources for customers in a central location.

Spacing, crowd control, and social distancing: We see these as part of one problem – keeping people apart. We believe the solution to all is spreading out the market. This is done by the following:

- The market is single sided with the main aisle backing up to Texas Drive. No vendor booths will stand face to face or otherwise opposite each other.
- Along that main aisle, we will leave at least 4-6 feet spacing between booths. See photo below.
- If more space is needed, we will then start one or more rows of vendors, similarly spaced, in aisles perpendicular to the main aisle. Again none of these booths will face each other.
- Some booths normally attract crowds, and, for these, we will use chalk or tape to mark off six foot spaces to help customers know where to stand safely.
- The market manager’s job will be modified to focus on crowd management and social distancing. We will forego punching loyalty cards to allow her to manage any congested areas and to avoid coming into close contact with customers with cards to punch.
- This approach will allow customers to continue coming in from many directions and park near favorite vendors.



This is a photo from our Thursday market held on Austin Avenue next to the Monument Café. For Sun City the booths would be a single line all facing the same direction.