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From: **Minnesota Farmers' Market Association** <admin@mfma.org>

Date: Tue, Mar 17, 2020 at 10:14 AM

Subject: Urgent - Farmers' Markets Exempt From Restaurant/Bar Closings

To: Kathy Zeman <kzeman@mfma.org>



URGENT - Farmers' Markets Exempt From Restaurant and Bar Closure

As the cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, a partial closure of restaurants and bars in the state of Minnesota will go in place today, March 17, 2020 per an executive order from

State of Minnesota will go in place today, March 17, 2020 per an executive order from Governor Walz.

Please note that this closure does not include Minnesota Farmers' Markets.

Communication from Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture, Thom Petersen, has confirmed from Governor attorneys that farmers' markets are exempt from this executive order, provided they do not offer onsite consumption.

Farmers' markets are a vital part of our food system and important to both farmer and consumer. While farmers' markets are encouraged to stay open, alternate delivery modes, such as drive through markets, are encouraged. All possible protections should be taken.

- Food sampling is banned and should be immediately suspended
- Plans to follow social distancing of 6 feet need to be in place
- Hand-washing stations need to be available and utilized abundantly

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 is all our responsibility. Visit the **Minnesota Department of Health** and **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** websites for information.



MFMA will be part of an Ag Leaders Forum with the Commissioner of Agriculture's Office later today. Check our website at www.mfma.org for updated information following that meeting.

COVID 19
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019
(COVID-19)**

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.

www.cdc.gov/COVID19

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