**Health & Safety at the Stapleton Farmers Market**

**Updated 14 April 2020**

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has declared Farmers Markets critical business and we believe that the less hands touching food the safer it is. We also believe local food supports the local economy, supports our neighbors and nourishes our soul as much as our stomach.

We are closely following guidelines from CDC, Colorado Farmers Market Association, the CSU extension and our local health department to ensure we are operating in a safe environment for our vendors, our patrons and our team.

Here are some things we will be doing to provide a safe environment for all:

* Defined entrances and exits to monitor the number of people in the market to 2 people per vendor booth.
* Increased space between booths to allow for social distancing.
* Handwashing stations and hand sanitizer at entrances.
* We will discontinue music, seating and kids activities until local government officials have told us it is safe to resume.

We will be asking vendors to do the following:

* Have handwashing stations, sanitizer and gloves for their employees
* Minimize sampling
* After handling money or touching your face put on new gloves.
* All prepared foods must be pre-packaged and taken to go.
* Discontinue use of cloth tablecloths

What you can do as market goers:

* If you are sick, please stay home.
* If you bring your own bag please pack it yourself, do not hand to vendors to pack and please wash regularly.
* Please allow vendors to handle their products and hand them to you.
* Please be efficient with you shopping time.

**The Good News:** COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness. It is extremely unlikely that someone will catch it through eating. The virus is most likely to cause illness through respiratory transmission, not eating. The routes to be concerned about include being in very close proximity to many people or coming in contact with high touch surfaces.