

# Best Management Practices for Farms Open to Visitors During the COVID-19 Pandemic

## Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 regulations and recommendations.

- [Vermont Health Dept. COVID-19 updates](#)
- [Vermont ACCD COVID-19 newsletter](#)
- [Vermont Daily Update on COVID-19](#)

## Develop strategies to manage number and flow of customers on the farm.

- Maintain 6-foot distance between all visitors and employees  
[What if my business does not allow for strict social distancing?](#)
- [Develop online sales](#)
- Increase direct sales of products through farm stands or curbside pickup
- Build an online ‘virtual’ tour of your farm
- [Provide U-pick activities](#)
- Consider a drive through farm tour
- Encourage visitors to come for a [farm walk](#)
- [Sector Guidance: Farmers Markets](#)
- [Indoor Farmers Market Guidance](#)
- [Sector Guidance: Pick-Your-Own Restart Plan](#)
- [Best Practices for Re-Opening Retail Food Establishments](#)



Map to visitor flow,  
Photo courtesy of J. Wang, Burlington Farmer's Market



Masked shopper,  
Photo courtesy of Ciara Fagan,  
Burlington Farmer's Market



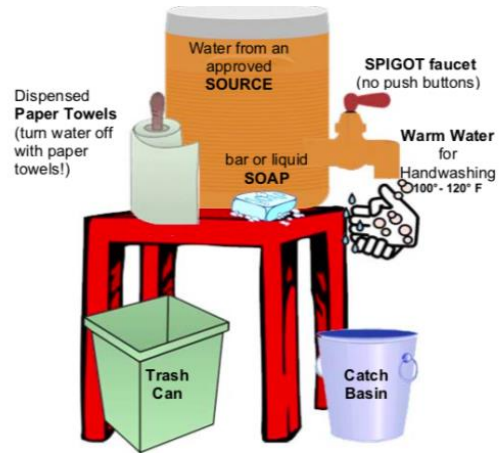
Socially distanced market,  
Photo courtesy of J. Wang, Burlington Farmer's Market

**Increase cleaning and sanitizing of frequently touched surfaces and provide additional handwashing and hand sanitizing opportunities and restrooms for employees and customers.**

- [Mandatory Health & Safety Requirements](#)
- [A Guide to Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting for Produce Farms](#)
- [Improving Handwashing Stations](#)



Market visitor uses handwashing station, Image courtesy of Andy Chamberlain, Jericho Farmer’s Market



Handwashing station, Image Courtesy of National Young Farmers Coalition

**Train your employees on new COVID-19 procedures and policies.**

- Alert employees to required daily health checks.  
[Do I need to take my employees' temperature at the start of each shift?](#)
- Train your employees in sanitization processes and essential new COVID-19 job duties  
[Mandatory Health & Safety Requirements](#)  
[If an Employee Tests Positive](#)  
[Interim Guidance for Agriculture Workers & Employers](#)



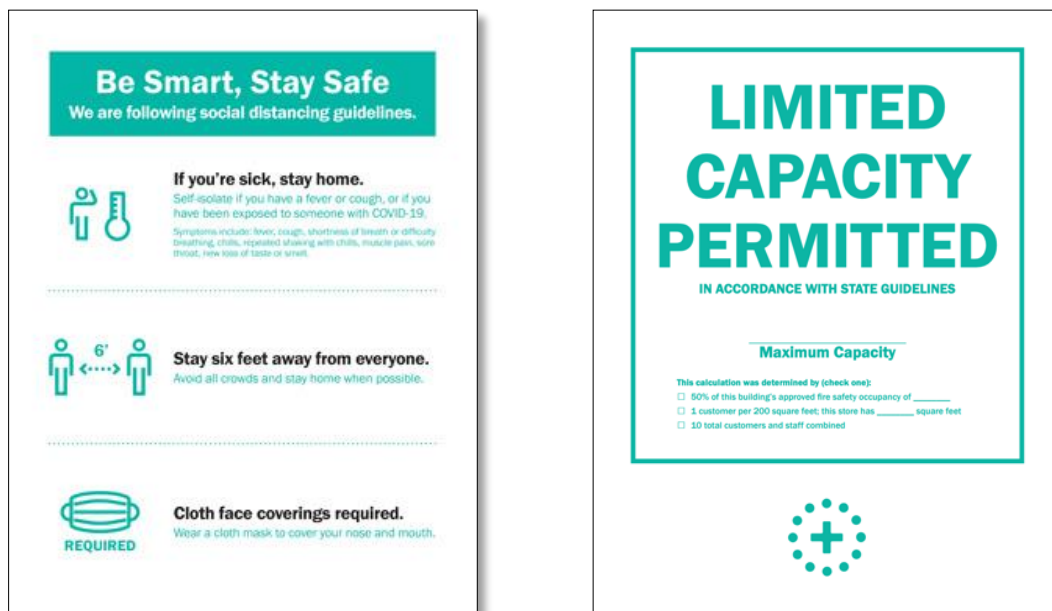
Vermont Workplace Guidelines, Image available at [VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)



Sanitizing hands at handwashing station, Photo courtesy of Andy Chamberlain, Jericho Farmer’s Market

## Develop a communication strategy to inform customers about new COVID-19 customer capacity and agritourism practices.

- Create a reopening and training plan.  
[Creating a Business Restart Plan](#)
- Manage customer numbers and payments on the farm.
- Build a communication campaign.  
[Restart Vermont Resources](#)  
[Post signs reinforcing new practices.](#)



COVID Guideline posters for Vermont businesses,  
Images available at [VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development](#)

**For more information, visit <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/vtagritourism>,  
or contact Lisa Chase, University of Vermont Extension,  
[Lisa.Chase@uvm.edu](mailto:Lisa.Chase@uvm.edu), 802-257-7967**

**For specific guidance for your business contact  
[Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development.](#)**

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This project is adapted from Cornell Small Farms Program's Best Management Practices for Agritourism Farms During the COVID-19 Pandemic, available at <https://smallfarms.cornell.edu/resources/farm-resilience/best-management-practices-for-agritourism-covid/>. Document compiled by Mia Vaccaro.