Department of Public Health
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

Food Safety at Farmers' Markets

The City of Philadelphia values the wonderful farmers markets that provide fresh, nutritious food to Philadelphians. Farmers' markets provide an important market for local farmers to sell food they raise directly to customers. They also provide an opportunity for consumers to ask questions, learn more about where the food is grown, and discover new produce to try.

Food Safety Guidelines for all Farmers' Markets

Every operator of a food stand and the farmers' market operator share the responsibility for the safety of the food sold and served at the market:

- All food items sold must be made or purchased from a licensed facility.
- All food items should be transported in a sanitary manner.
- All pre-cut food items or products to be sampled should be transported and stored in clean, sanitized containers (including coolers).
- Potentially hazardous items transported and stored in ice or ice packs should be completely covered to ensure temperatures of the items are below 41°F at all times. It is not acceptable to have a cooler full of food and only a few ice packs placed on the top. Potentially hazardous items include whole shell eggs, meat, dairy, and some pre-packaged products such as tofu-soy. Use a thermometer to monitor their temperature.
- Any packaged foods must be properly packaged and labeled. The following must be listed on the label: name of product, ingredients, name and address of the manufacturer or distributor and net contents/weight. Products should be sourced from a business that has good food safety practices and all appropriate licensing.

  No homemade products may be sold or sampled.

ATTENTION FARMERS' MARKET OPERATORS

Farmers' Market Operator Registration

Each year, every farmers' market operator must complete and submit a Farmers' Market Operator Registration Form to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Services (EHS). The market operator is required to update EHS whenever there are changes to the information submitted. A copy of the registration form is available for download at www.phila.gov/health/farmersmarkets.

For more information, contact Environmental Health Services at 215-686-1230 or healthfarmersmarkets@phila.gov.

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