

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, March 19, 2020

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## **The Food Trust's Three Year-Round Philadelphia Farmers Markets to Remain Open During COVID-19 Outbreak**

*Essential Community Food Access Points Adding Extensive Safety  
Precautions to Protect Customers, Farmers and Staff*

**Philadelphia, PA** — Following guidance from the Philadelphia Department of Parks & Recreation, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and health departments across the country, The Food Trust will keep its three year-round farmers markets (**Fitler Square, Clark Park** and **Headhouse**) open during the city's evolving COVID-19 shut-down. During this crisis, farmers markets remain a critical point of access for affordable, healthy food, particularly for individuals relying on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

"The Food Trust was founded with the notion that no one should have to choose between eating healthy and eating enough," says **Aaron Felder**, interim CEO. "Now more than ever, we must work to serve families vulnerable to food insecurity through any means that we can – in this case, by providing a safe environment to purchase nourishing food."

The following measures are being taken to ensure the safety of our customers, farmers and staff:

- Vendor tables will be spaced out at least 6 feet from one another;
- Hand-washing stations will be placed throughout each market, and customers will be asked to wash hands upon entry;
- Only farmers will touch items for sale (customers may point at what they intend to purchase);
- Farmers and market staff will wear gloves at all times, changing those gloves frequently, and payment and produce will be handled by different individuals when possible;



- Some farmers will offer pre-bagged produce options (e.g., a 3-pound bag of greens, root vegetables, apples and cider);
- Market staff and volunteers will be on hand to mitigate crowd control by helping customers to form lines with space in between each person; and
- Signs will be posted to remind customers about CDC recommendations and the above modifications to market operations.

As always, The Food Trust's farmers markets accept SNAP benefits, and distribute Food Bucks fruit and vegetable coupons to SNAP customers, at each location. (For more information about this crucial program, visit [thefoodtrust.org/foodbucks](http://thefoodtrust.org/foodbucks).) If you are interested in volunteering to support these markets, please email [farmersmarket@thefoodtrust.org](mailto:farmersmarket@thefoodtrust.org).

The Food Trust has suspended all other community programming during the outbreak, in accordance with CDC guidelines, and is working to provide healthy food access and nutrition education through our digital channels. Follow us on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook for updates.

#### [Fitler Square Farmers Market](#)

23<sup>rd</sup> and Pine

Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### [Clark Park Farmers Market](#)

43<sup>rd</sup> and Baltimore

Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

#### [Headhouse Farmers Market](#)

Second and Lombard

Sundays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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