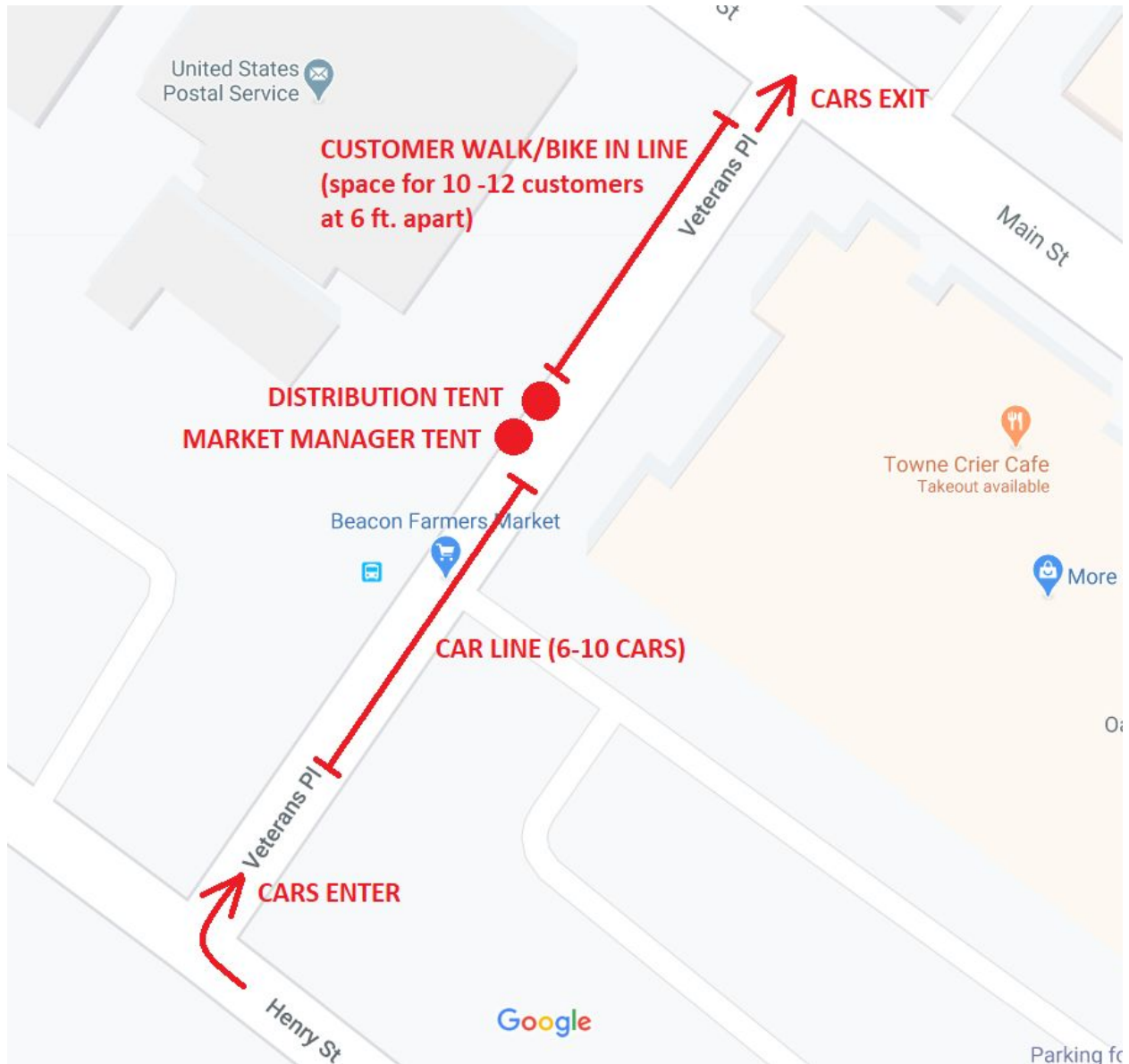


Beacon Farmers' Market Distribution Site
Interim Market Operations & Procedures Guideline
Location: Veteran's Place

Map:



Context:

Farmers Market are [essential businesses](#) and critical community resources especially during the coronavirus pandemic. Recognizing this, the C.A.R.E.S. Act “[includes \\$9.5 billion to support agricultural producers impacted by coronavirus.](#)” The Beacon Farmers Market (BFM) is requesting access to establish its location on Veteran's Place.

During this public health crisis, the BFM is committed to upholding its mission to [provide fresh food access](#) to [much needed nutrition](#) to Beacon residents while supporting the livelihoods of [local farmers and producers](#), who along with our dedicated market staff are the [frontline workers](#) in this crisis.

At the same time, this pandemic is having a [disproportionate impact on people of color](#) and [low-income Americans](#) that the BFM is committed to serving. “[Farmers markets are essential activities for the economic livelihood of farmers and for food access for millions of Americans](#),” says Ben Feldman, executive director of the Farmers Market Coalition. “The closure of markets has the potential to bankrupt farmers and force people to go without food.”

In the absence of competent leadership from Washington, [communities are looking to local leaders to solve their problems](#). We ask the City of Beacon to partner with the BFM to provide this local solution to fulfill our duty to the community and to our farmer and producer vendors.

Resources available at Veteran’s Place:

- Veteran’s Place (VP) as an outdoor location has the space to allow for social-distancing for order pickups as recommended during the COVID-19 crisis.
- VP is both pedestrian and car-friendly, and is located at a central location increasing accessibility to market patrons.
- VP is a safe, low/slow traffic area with two access points which is conducive to public safety.
- VP is a familiar location to market patrons and vendors which limits confusion about the market’s location during these confounding times.

A note on social distancing:

To ensure proper social distancing, no contact, and to limit the number of people gathering, the Beacon Farmers’ Market has reduced from vendor run stands to a staff/volunteer run distribution center. In this system customers place orders online, then vendors drop off orders to be organized and distributed by staff/volunteers at the pick up stand or by delivery.

Specifics on health/safety protocol at the market:

[Vendor Waiver on Health & Safety Protocols](#)

[Volunteer Waiver on Health & Safety Protocols](#)

[Note to customers on social distancing and no contact at the market.](#)

Schedule of operations:

7:30 AM to 8:30 AM - Market set up and vendor drop off.

8:30 AM to 10 AM - Order organization. Delivery people leave with orders before 10 AM.

10 AM to 12 PM - Customers pick up by car or on foot.

12 PM to 1 PM - Market break down and donation delivery.

Note on our operations since shutting down the market:

Last edit: 04/05/2020

Currently, the Beacon Farmers' Market, as an essential business, is running an interim market, under strict social distancing and no contact procedures. The goal is to host a market that is safe for our customers, vendors, and staff/volunteers, while still providing access to fresh and healthy food for our community.

Our response to COVID 19 has been radical - we shut down operations more than a week before the State government advised, we transitioned the market into an online order system within a week, and have been supporting food access for more than 120 families in the City of Beacon.

March 15th: BFM cancelled out of precaution of the rising public health concern due to COVID 19. At this point there had not yet been any confirmed cases of COVID 19 in Dutchess County, but several in surrounding counties where several of our vendors are located.

March 22nd: BFM reopens market outside of the VFW Hall under a pre-order only system. All vendors have orders packaged in plastic. Customers arrive by foot or car for pick up, following social distancing guidelines. The distributor(s) practice no contact with the customer and use either hand sanitizer or gloves while touching the packaged product. *~60 customer orders.*

March 29th: BFM expands pre-order system to online ordering through the BFM website. Procedures follow the same as above, with the implementation of stricter no contact rules for vendors. *~80 customer orders.*

April 5th: BFM follows as above, with the addition of several more vendors than previous weeks. Implementation of stricter customer social distancing guidelines, including curbside pick up and a delivery system for City of Beacon residents. *~120 customer orders.*

Future plans:

April 12th: Adding food access initiatives, including SNAP/EBT, a sliding scale, and a sponsorship program, that will greatly increase the number of families fed, and the overall impact on our community. We have raised almost \$2300 already to support this initiative. Once these are implemented, we are sure that participation will be much higher.