



## COVID-19 Patch Guidelines

### What measures can you take to set up a safe patch for customers?

- You might want to consider arranging your patch in a checkerboard pattern instead of rows this year. This will provide customers with better options for distancing.
- Provide gloves and facemasks for volunteers.
- To protect your volunteers, you might want to create a policy that customers are required to wear masks.

### What social distancing measures can Pumpkin Patches take to protect the well-being of staff and customers?

- Limit and control access at your patch to ensure proper social distancing by establishing clearly marked entrance and exit points for customers.
- Establish and maintain maximum number of customers that can be accommodated safely
- Post ample and prominent signage indicating proper social distancing (i.e. keep 6 feet away from others), hand washing, cloth face covering use and hygiene etiquette.
- Families with children should be reminded to keep their familial group together.
- When possible, you may want to offer shopping for the elderly before the main patch hours.
- Post signage indicating that customers feeling ill should not enter, for example: "If you feel ill, please do not shop with us today"
- Establish designated waiting points at check-out areas.
- Establish different volunteers to handle pumpkins and financial transactions.
- Ask customers to wait until the customer in front of them has finished collecting their produce before moving into the sales and pricing area.
- Volunteers at front end should be directing customers at pay area to help maintain social distancing. Use cones or stakes to mark off 6-foot increments
- Consider online ordering as an option, have designated pick-up times.
- Keep customers at a distance from staff by using stanchions posts are other low-tech solutions.

### What measures should be taken to disinfect areas of your Pumpkin Patch accessible to the public?

- Follow the four-step process for your regular cleaning and sanitizing for sales surfaces:
  1. Remove all visible debris from surfaces
  2. Use a detergent appropriate for the surface and scrub if necessary
  3. Rinse the surface completely of debris and detergent.
  4. Use a food contact surface approved sanitizer and always follow the label directions
- To disinfect a surface the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends bleach OR 70% alcohol.



- To make a bleach solution, mix 1/3 cup bleach per gallon of water.

### **What personal sanitation measures should be implemented at your pumpkin patch?**

- Provide hand sanitizer at the entry/exit from the market.
- Establish handwashing stations at the entry/exit of your patch for customers and in a designated location for volunteers.
- Designate responsibility of monitoring and restocking these facilities.
- Touchless payment options can reduce cross-contamination risk. Consider supplying hand sanitizer, single use gloves and implementing frequent sanitizing of electronic payment surfaces.

### **What point of sale information should be posted for customers?**

- Provide science-based information for your customers so they understand what risk reduction measures you are taking, and why.
- Fresh produce should be washed prior to use. Hard rind produces, such as pumpkins, can be scrubbed with a soft brush.

### **Can COVID-19 be transmitted by handling or consuming food?**

- There are no documented cases of COVID-19 transmission from food.

### **WHAT NOT TO DO**

- Taking temperatures is not recommended, as this is a medical procedure and must be done by a medical professional to be accurate
- We do not recommend that fresh produce be washed with soap
- We do not recommend treating fresh produce with bleach.