

The Happy Berry Covid-19 Policies

A large crop is anticipated in 2020, and with COVID-19, we are worried about how we can make sure we can connect you our customers with the bountiful harvest we are anticipating.

To that end, we are working on our safety protocols so you can be/feel safe in getting your food locally.

Stay home if Sick.

Masks - Masks do not protect you from infection but they do keep the wearer from spreading infection. Since an individual can be infected and viruliferous before they know it, our employees will wear masks when dealing with the public. We will require all customers to wear masks as they check in or as checking out. Please understand that our matriarch, Ann, is in an extremely high risk category, so protecting our staff to prevent potential spread to Walker and so to Ann, is imperative. In the field while picking, masks are encouraged of customers but not required. You will need to bring your own mask.

Hand sterilization stations and hand washing - Hand sterilization stations will be provided. Sterilization is achieved with products containing at least 60% alcohol, approved sanitizer or by washing (thoroughly) with soap and water. Since Covid-19 is easily destroyed by simple hand washing, we plan to focus on the hand washing and employees will wash (or sanitize) their hands between customers and handling funds. **This will slow down the check out process.** So please have patience with us as we work this out, and in general, realize that

the check out process is going to take longer when there are multiple customers waiting to check out.

Checking-in.

- If you have your own bucket, you are a regular customer and know where the berries are ripe, you can just head into the field without checking in at the porch.
- If you don't have your own bucket, or you are not familiar with our procedure or where to go, you will need to check in at the porch first. Personnel will try to direct you to a good spot for picking.
- Please maintain social distance in the field, and if you have children with you, please keep them close. Due to Covid-19, this year we ask that no children be allowed to roam the fields or come to the porch area without an adult.

Pick-your-own buckets -

As much as possible, we ask everyone to bring their own buckets. (You are responsible for its cleanliness.) For those who do not have buckets when they come, we will provide plastic buckets as available. Plastic buckets will be sterilized with sodium hypochlorite (Clorox) at 5 tablespoons per gallon (75ml or 2.5 oz) of water. If we do not have plastic buckets available, we will provide cardboard boxes. If you are not holding onto the cardboard box to re-use, we encourage you to recycle any unwanted cardboard boxes at your recycle center.

For both pre-picked and pick your own Check-Out procedures:

To facilitate the check out and social distancing please follow the procedure below. **Please Note that we may change this procedure as we gain experience.**

- First – There will be sticky notes and pens at a table as you near the porch. Take sticky note and put your name and time on the note.
- Second - Give to the note to the cashier then step away, maintaining social distancing but staying within hearing distance.
- Third - We will call based on the time on the note.

Social distancing - The standard is 6 feet. We will install signs to facilitate the standard at the porch, but will have to rely on you in the field to be respectful of other customers and keep your social distance. Please keep your children with you, and make sure they are also keeping social distance from others.

Body Temperature / Signs of Illness - All personnel including those who pick for us will take their temperature with a "non contact infra red forehead thermometer." Employees will record their temperature on their time card when they clock in and clock out. Pickers (versus porch staff) do not have time cards, but we will log their temperatures in our log book before they go into the field. Anyone exhibiting any signs of illness (excess coughing, sneezing, and/or runny nose, even without a temperature) will be asked to leave.

Off-farm policy - Farmers markets and deliveries

It is important to note here that safe practice guidelines have not been fully set out by the different markets in which we plan to participate. But as we wait for those guidelines to be provided, the following are our thoughts on some of the safety protocols that we will follow.

All market personnel shall wear masks in the market and use gloves and/or hand sanitizer between transactions. **This will slow things down** but please bear with us.

Sampling - Instead of helping yourself to samples, if you wish to sample fresh fruit, please ask. **Some markets have rules not to sample.** We plan to have small cups and to be able to provide a sample upon request, if allowed by the market.

Delivery personnel shall wear masks and gloves at the point of delivery to all store and second seller markets. They will also have had a temperature check just as with all of our staff before they start and when they end their day.

Final thoughts

Ultraviolet light is frequently used as a sterilizing procedure.

Ultraviolet light is present in sunshine. While we are not aware of any data to support our theory, it is our thinking that purchasing food in an outdoor setting MAY be lower risk than shopping indoors because any airborne particles or germs that could be on surfaces are exposed to UV light. In addition there is more room for social distancing.

It is also our understanding that it is highly unlikely to transfer Covid-19 on food. Covid -19 is not a food-borne illness. Most pathogens, including viruses like covid-19, are destroyed by stomach acids. The most likely mode of transmission is through respiration of germs and contact with high touch/contaminated surfaces.

Please know if you are visiting the farm...You do so at your own risk. And please understand that while it may seem we are being overly cautious requiring masks at the porch, Ann's health and the possibility of exposing her to Covid-19 is a major concern.