

■ NEWS

DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET TO OPEN WITH NEW SAFETY PROTOCOLS

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Shoppers will be able to purchase local produce, food, and flowers from the Downtown Georgetown Farmer's Market as of June 6.

The Downtown Georgetown Business Improvement Area (DGBIA) announced the market will open with new public safety protocols in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year, the Farmers Market will be divided into four sections: Main Street South, between Church Street and Mill Street; Main Street South, between Mill Street and James Street; the Church Street parking lot; and the north side of the Back Street parking lot.

Each section's entry and exit points will be barricaded with staff and volunteers monitoring pedestrian access.

For the beginning of the season, the market will be limited to produce, food, and flower vendors.

Additional protocols include:

- Booths being spaced at least two metres apart
- No loitering or congregation of market patrons
- A maximum of two patrons per vendor booth
 - No sampling or

Downtown Georgetown BIA photo

This year's farmers market will have much more stringent protocols to maintain the safety of vendors and patrons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

touching of food

An added feature of this year's market is the online store through Local Line.

Patrons will be able to order from their favourite food and non-food vendors and pick up at the market during their allotted pickup time.

The order pickup area will be limited to vehicular traffic only. Patrons will enter the parking lot area at Back Street, show staff their order information, and have their order placed within the patron's vehicle per the patron's direction.

"We've had such a strong demand for the return of

the Farmers Market that we had to buckle down and rethink our entire operation from top to bottom," Yaw Ennin, DGBIA and farmers market manager, said. "The changes we're implementing for this year's market will ensure that we continue to provide this essential service to the community, while ensuring the safety of vendors and patrons."

The market will run every Saturday from June 6 to October 17, from 8 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

More information is available at farmersmarketgeorgetown.com.

