



San Francisco Wholesale  
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### **THE SF MARKET DECLARED ESSENTIAL SERVICE, REMAINS OPEN Modifies Operations to Protect Public Health and Safety**

**SAN FRANCISCO, (March 19, 2020)** – [The SF Market](#) – the Bay Area’s source of fresh produce – announced that the City and County of San Francisco designated it an “essential social service” and that it will continue close to normal operations under the six-county shelter in place order.

The SF Market is host to nearly 30 wholesale merchant members who buy fresh produce from farmers throughout California and agriculture partners worldwide, and distribute it to restaurants, grocers and other food businesses large and small. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables pass through The Market early every morning, allowing consumers access to a wide array of organic and conventional produce at retail outlets throughout the Bay Area.

“We are a core component of the state’s critical infrastructure for the distribution of food,” said Michael Janis, General Manager of The SF Market. “These are challenging times for the entire world and we are closely following the advice and guidance of local, state and Federal public health agencies. Our growers and merchants are committed to ensuring that the public continues to enjoy ready access to fresh fruits and vegetables. And we are taking all appropriate precautions to protect their health and that of their customers.”

The SF Market has installed additional hand-washing stations throughout its 23-acre facility and is encouraging their frequent use. In the interest of limiting potential exposure, customers are limited to food industry professionals and food businesses, and six-foot social distancing is requested for all personal interactions. Access to merchants’ warehouses and offices is restricted to team members.

The Market is continuing its [Food Recovery Program](#) to ensure that all available produce donations reach those in need. Market staff connect donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from on-site Merchants with local community organizations including [Food Runners](#), the [San Francisco-Marin Food Bank](#) and the [Coalition of Concerned Medical Professionals](#).

“For more than 125 years, The SF Market has been a vibrant part of the City’s world-renowned culinary history,” said Janis. “Thanks to our deep, long-standing partnership with the City of San Francisco, Bay Area restaurants, grocers and food businesses can rely on us for fresh fruits and vegetables, some provided by merchants with a near-century-long history of their own. We are resilient. By emphasizing health and safety initiatives, we will weather this storm as we have many, many others. The public should have confidence that we will continue meeting their needs.”

**About The SF Market.** The SF Market (formerly the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market) makes things grow – for farmers, distributors, wholesalers, retailers, restaurants, and communities. Home to 28 merchants in a single vibrant San Francisco marketplace, our diverse range of produce businesses supplies the widest, best-tasting selection of fresh produce available in Northern California. The Market is a platform for critical access and scale—providing the food infrastructure, programs and relationships that help hundreds of farmers, Bay Area food businesses and their communities thrive.

The SF Market is San Francisco’s original—and only—wholesale produce market. As a pillar of the Bay Area’s food economy and a non-profit social enterprise, we create jobs for over 850 people and foster efficiency, diversity and innovation. The Market moves millions of pounds of fresh produce through the Bay Area, occupies 485,000 sq. ft. of food-focused warehouse and logistics space in San Francisco’s Bayview Hunter’s Point neighborhood, and has a Reinvestment Plan to upgrade our facility designed to support new food businesses and an engaged community.

The SF Market’s focus on growth extends to the entire food system—with programs directed toward local farmer partnerships, food recovery, and healthy retail policy. It was designated a Legacy Business by the City and County of San Francisco in 2018. Learn more at [www.thesfmarket.org](http://www.thesfmarket.org).

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