



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Safety and solidarity: the keys to summer at Montreal's public markets**

**Montreal, May 6, 2020** – Montreal's public markets, some of the city's favourite places to buy local produce, are switching over to summer mode. More and more farmers and local businesses are setting up their colourful stalls in the **Jean-Talon, Atwater and Maisonneuve** markets. Visitors can start enjoying the new season, with opening hours from **9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday**, starting today at the Jean-Talon and Maisonneuve markets, and starting tomorrow, May 7, at the Atwater Market.

As a designated **essential service**, the public markets are open and closely following government health directives. Existing measures are reassessed regularly based on the latest advisories as well as on-site observations. Safety measures are based on the recommendations of the Direction régionale de santé publique and are aimed at minimizing risks for shoppers and workers alike.

- Outdoor areas secured with fences to limit access and occupancy
- Crowd-management team stationed at access points as well as inside the markets to ensure people maintain appropriate physical distancing
- Mandatory handwashing upon entering and exiting the secured area
- New handwashing stations in the markets' central areas
- Widening of the central concourse at Jean-Talon Market to enable one-way traffic
- All vendors required to install a protective barrier between employees and customers
- Contactless payment encouraged
- Creation of pick-up and delivery zones
- Take-out only offered by food-service providers
- The north and south sides of Jean-Talon Market are closed to vehicles during business hours to ensure visitor safety and more fluid pedestrian traffic
- More frequent cleaning of high-risk areas
- Removal of seating to prevent loitering

All visitors are asked to take the following precautions in order to keep the markets operating smoothly:

- Make a grocery list and have a clear idea of your needs before entering the market
- Shop alone or with one essential helper

- Leave children at home, if possible
- If possible, visit during normal quiet times: Monday to Wednesday at the beginning and end of the day.

“The warm season that’s just getting started will, of course, bring new safety challenges, and the safety of our customers and merchants remains our top priority. Thanks to the commitment and cooperation of our members, we are able to keep making fresh produce available to Montrealers, along with a shopping experience as faithful as possible to the experience that only our public markets can offer,” said Nicolas Fabien-Ouellet, interim executive director of the Corporation de gestion des marchés publics de Montréal.

### **Supporting the local economy and minimizing physical contact**

You can also support our merchants without visiting a market! In all of our markets, multiple vendors are offering a **fresh produce delivery service** and advance order preparation. The [complete list of options](#) is available on the Marchés publics de Montréal website. It is updated as more merchants participate. So far, the initiative has been a big hit with shoppers.

At the city’s busiest market, Jean-Talon, pre-selected produce baskets are available for delivery thanks to a pilot project in partnership with [PanierQuébécois.com](#). A new bike-delivery initiative, a collaboration between the SDC Petite-Italie, La roue libre and Livraison Vélo Montréal, is also in the works.

### **Buying local: important now and always**

The opening of the summer season at our public markets always brings fresh new flavours to our tables. More than 40 merchants will join their year-round colleagues at Jean-Talon Market, as will 20 at Atwater Market. They are all eager to share their knowledge, tips and stories with customers – at a safe 2 metres, of course!

**Eating local is more important than ever.** As well as giving you the chance to enjoy local products of unparalleled quality, eating local supports our workers and helps reduce excess packaging and long-distance shipping. #JeMangeMtl is a mark of solidarity and pride – share it widely.

For all of Montreal’s Public Markets news, be sure to follow us on...

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | <https://www.marchespublics-mtl.com>

### **MONTRÉAL PUBLIC MARKETS**

Founded in 1993, the Corporation for the Management of Montréal’s Public Markets is a non-profit organization that manages and develops the major public markets in the Montreal area - Jean-Talon, Atwater, Maisonneuve and Lachine markets - and some ten

neighborhood markets. Its objective is to ensure that Montrealers have access to local products as diverse as they are in markets that are at the heart of their community.

-30-

Source: Corporation de gestion des Marchés Publics de Montréal  
Diane Leblanc, Director, Marketing & Communications  
[dleblanc@marchespublics-mtl.com](mailto:dleblanc@marchespublics-mtl.com)