



*The Common Market is here to serve.*

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## OUR STATEMENT

On behalf of The Common Market — we hope you, your families, and extended communities are healthy and safe.

At The Common Market, we view the health and well-being of our partners as a top priority, and we fully recognize the role high-quality, local food can play in nutrition and overall good health. **In the wake of the COVID-19/coronavirus outbreak, The Common Market leans on its mission to serve, and aims to be a part of the solution.**

Our passionate, hardworking teams based in the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Texas regions, are actively seeking ways to improve food access, and prioritize the health of our most vulnerable, low-income communities during this time of uncertainty.

We are equipped to be of service to these particular, in-need communities. If you have a connection to and feel available to facilitate a partnership, we hope to hear from *you.*

Our teams have already begun to engage with emergency services in our active geographies to discuss how we might be able to use our trucking and operational resources in order to support the broader community in need.

We've done it before (["The Common Market Texas links local farmers to communities affected by Deer Park fires."](#)), and we are honored to serve again in any way that ensures good food access is available to those who need it most.

**Please be in touch if you'd like to join our efforts, or know of communities in need. We are actively seeking partnership.**

**We honor your trust, and remind you and your communities of the best practices we deploy on a daily basis to keep our food safe. Please read on to learn how we will continue to keep our community safe and nourished with the highest quality, locally sourced foods:**

- **Strong food safety and handling practices:** The Common Market has implemented systems and practices throughout the organization that consistently score "excellent" in our third-party food safety and handling audit conducted by the NSF International. This "Safe, Quality, Food" (SQF) audit is based on the rigorous Global Food Safety Initiative standards.
- **Food is not known to transmit coronavirus:** According to a statement released by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week, "We are not aware of any reports at this time of human illnesses that suggest COVID-19 can be transmitted by food or food packaging."





- *continued*...However, it is always important to follow good hygiene practices (i.e., wash hands and surfaces often, separate raw meat from other foods, cook to the right temperature, and refrigerate foods promptly) when handling or preparing foods.”
- **We continue to stay informed:** Our teams continuously monitor updates and communications from the Joint Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and local agencies. We will take all recommended precautions communicated through recognized authorities.
- **We promote team wellness:** We’ve implemented measures to limit our team’s exposure to COVID-19 and to support our staff’s physical and emotional health. The Common Market provides paid sick leave to all of its employees. We encourage staff to stay home in the event that they are feeling ill or exhibiting any symptoms of sickness.
- **We aim to be a part of the solution:** We are engaging with emergency services in our active geographies (Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, Texas regions), to discuss how we might be able to use our trucking and operational resources in order to support the broader community in need.
- **We maintain short, fully transparent supply chains:** Our food passes through very little hands before reaching our communities. Our short supply chains give us confidence in the origins of our food, as well as the quality.

### *Please be in touch if you know of a community in need:*

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