

Hello,

This message is to inform you that this year's **"The Gathering: Coming Together Around Local Food"** scheduled for this Saturday, March 14th in Mason City has been cancelled, due to growing concerns around the COVID-19 virus. The safety of attendees, vendors, volunteers and the general public must come first. We do not take this decision lightly. In this challenging time, we follow the guidance and policies as established by community and public health officials. Due to the number of expected attendees, the inability to maintain the recommended six foot space between guests, and the lack of prevention supplies available locally, we ultimately feel it is in the public's best interest to cancel this event.

As a reminder, CDC guidelines encourage the following preventative actions, which are also applicable to preventing the spread of many viruses:

- Stay home if feeling unwell, developing a cough, or running a fever
- Practice hand hygiene, including frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, and avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth
- Practice respiratory etiquette, including covering cough and sneezes with a tissue, and then disposing of the tissue in the trash
- Clean frequently touched surface and objects daily (including tablets and cell phones)
- Perform self-monitoring, and seek medical care immediately if feeling unwell

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and look forward to engaging with you all at The Gathering in March next year. **We will be working to post video recordings of our workshop presentations, and will post vendor information to encourage access to their local food products.**

We will be issuing full refunds to all vendors. Please allow two weeks to process those checks.

For questions, please contact us at info@healthyharvestni.com or call Marie (515-337-2445).

Thank you,

Dana Thomas
Board Chair

Marie Boyd
Executive Director

Healthy Harvest of North Iowa
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