

COVID ————— 19

SAFER COVERED MARKETS

Helping public places to reopen safely

Covered Markets play an essential role in the economic and social life of towns and cities across the country. This Covid-19 Safer Spaces guide is to assist staff and traders in adapting their markets to enable safer operation and greater resilience.

Developed by architects IF_DO, in partnership with NABMA, the National Association of British Markets, this free-to-use guide sets out clear principles for how to adapt covered markets across the UK. Visual diagrams illustrate recommended spatial adaptations that will enable trading to take place as safely as possible.

As an architecture practice, IF_DO is focussed on the design of social infrastructure—places that help to improve lives for people and foster stronger and more resilient communities. These places will be critical to the social recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, and the Covid-19 Safer Spaces project has been developed to provide expert guidance on how they can be safely adapted.

We are grateful for the support of numerous individuals who have contributed their time and expertise to the development of this guide. With thanks in particular to NABMA Chief Executive David Preston, Andy Ward, Manager of Warrington Market, Donna Tuxford, Manager of Stockport Market, Mike Cox and Hilary Humphries at Shrewsbury Market, Julian Brent, Manager of Fleetwood Market and David Clough, Retail Markets and Events Manager at Oswestry Town Council.

Developed by

IF_DO

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In partnership with

NABMA
the voice of markets

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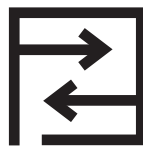


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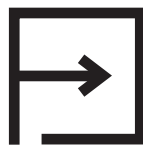


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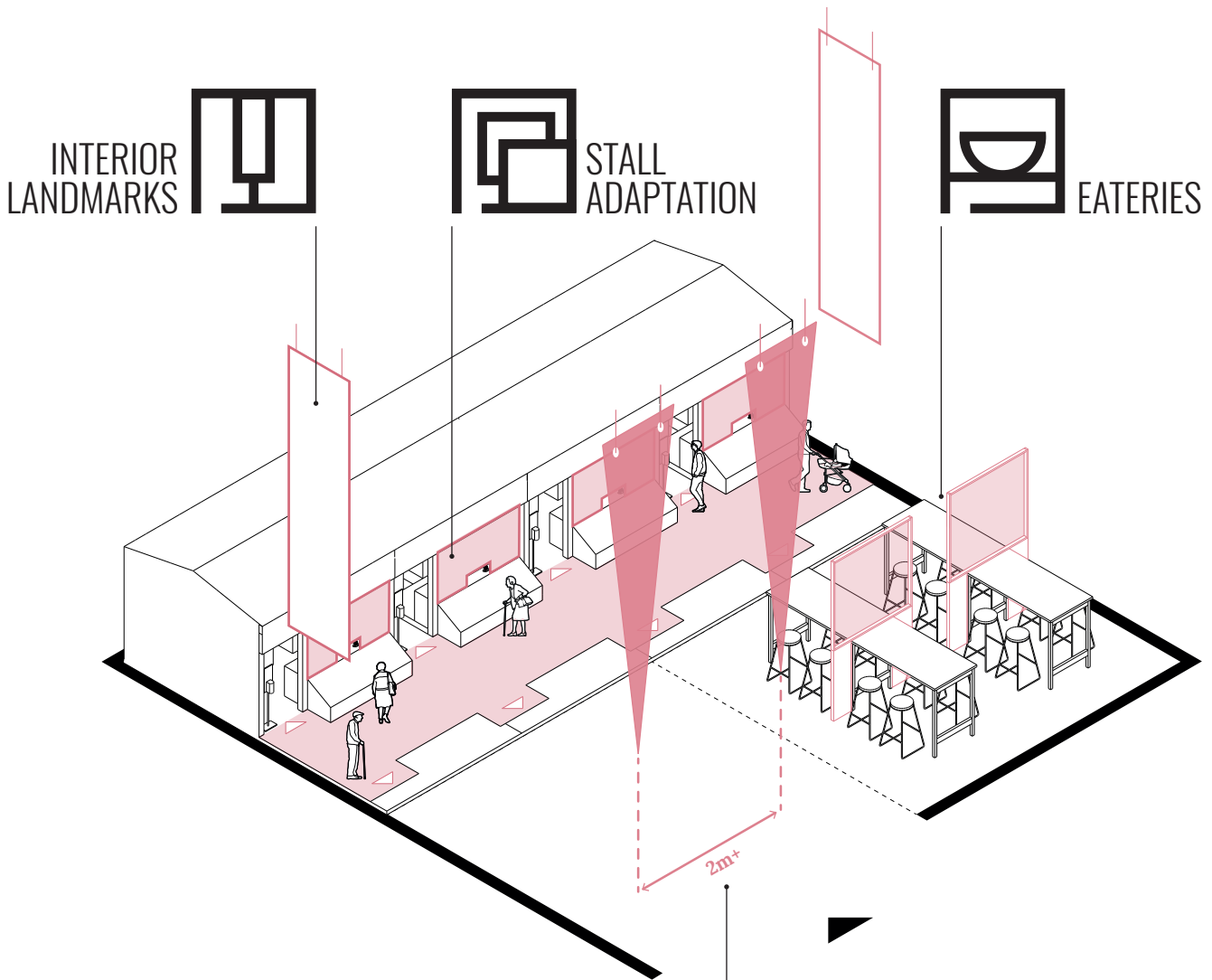
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OVERVIEW

The overview diagram below illustrates the core elements for the recovery and ongoing resilience of covered markets across the UK. The key details the graphical components used throughout the guide.



KEY



2m Distance Zone



Clear Signage



Control Barrier



Standing Space



Direction Arrow



Sanitising / cleaning point

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

01

Recovering and Ongoing Resilience. Indoor markets have been open at varying capacity throughout lockdown, having time to implement and adjust to new social distancing protocols. As such, the role of this guide is to assist in the long term recovering and resilience of indoor markets to ensure business can be undertaken as safely as possible in the future.

02

Resting and Moving. While dwell times should be reduced to mitigate the risk of Covid-19 transmission, markets are frequented by people who may require a rest from time to time, and this should be accommodated.

03

Circulating. Space is a premium within indoor markets, resulting in narrow aisles for movement between stalls. This makes it difficult to introduce one-way-systems, so slight interventions have been suggested to reduce congestion whilst ensuring traders have equal exposure to potential customers.

04

Filling the void. Leftover pockets of space within indoor markets often invite social congregation. This has been regarded as an opportunity to implement a small rest area for those that need it or a notice board with translated advice for those who English is not their first language.

05

Ensuring Visibility. Indoor markets can be busy places. A simple system of banners suspended from tall ceilings can help to create a visually clear system of navigation around the market, especially for those who are not yet familiar with its layout.

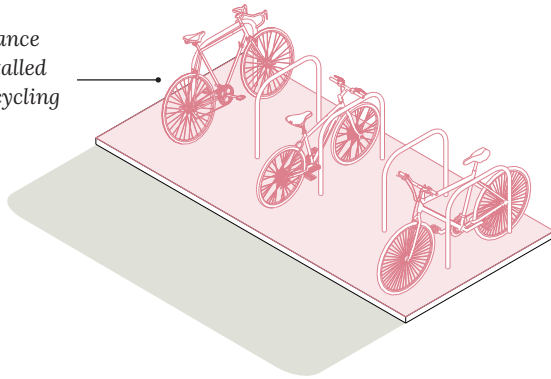
ELEMENTS



PROTOCOLS

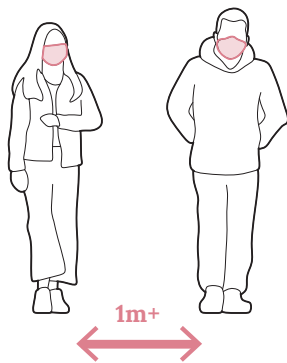
ARRIVAL

Low-maintenance bike racks installed to encourage cycling



Alternative Travel

Supporting sustainable transport options will help to reduce a reliance on public transport and therefore potentially reduce the risk of transmission. For example, providing additional bike racks may encourage more people to cycle.

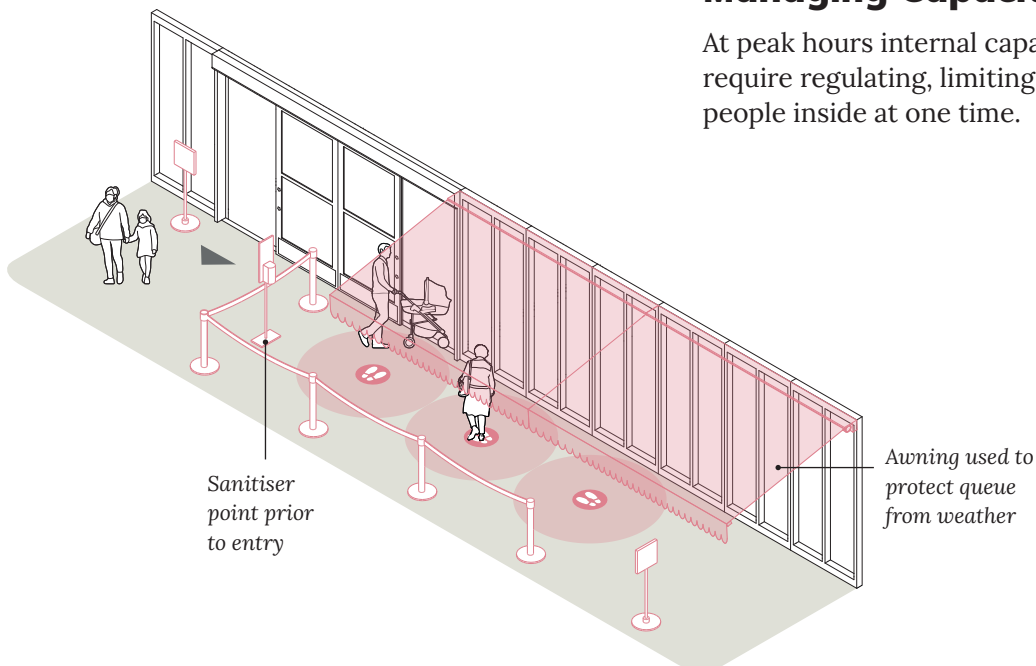


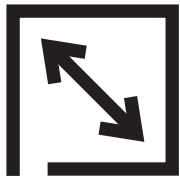
Face Coverings

Face coverings must be worn immediately before entering the market, and must remain on until exiting the building. Please refer to government guidance for exceptions. This guide has been developed to allow for 2m safe distance between people, which ensures 1 metre + guidance can also be maintained at all times.

Managing Capacity

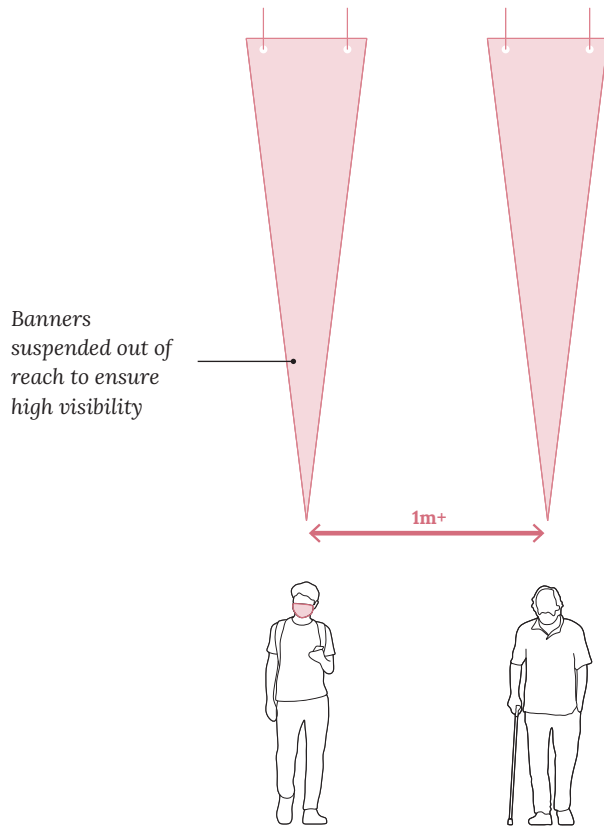
At peak hours internal capacity may require regulating, limiting the number of people inside at one time.





PROTOCOLS

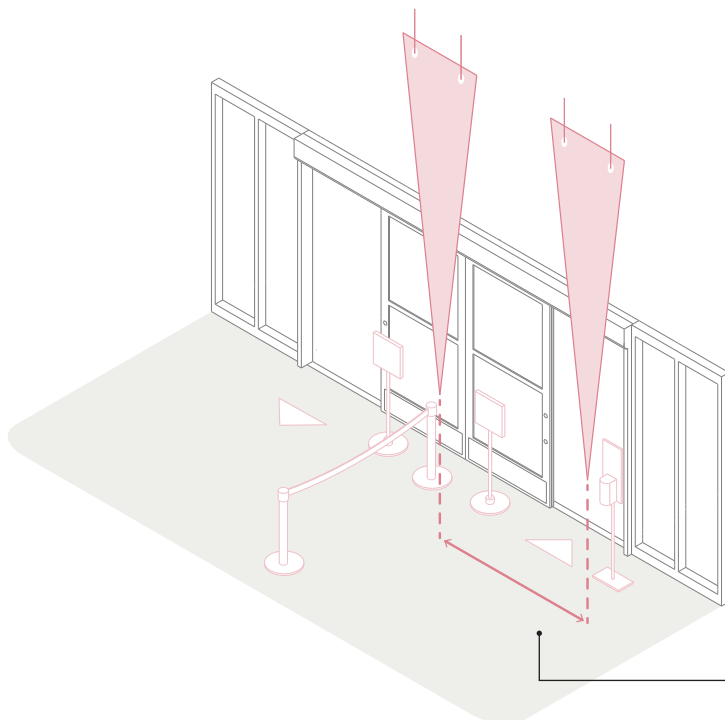
SAFE DISTANCING



Banners suspended out of reach to ensure high visibility

Engaging Distancing

A pair of banners with a simple colour scheme can be used to indicate safe-distancing. The intervention makes use of the tall internal spaces that are common to indoor markets, visible from afar and out of reach to reduce surface transmission.



Upon Entry

This simple intervention can be installed at the entry to the market, to visually introduce the idea to all entrances.

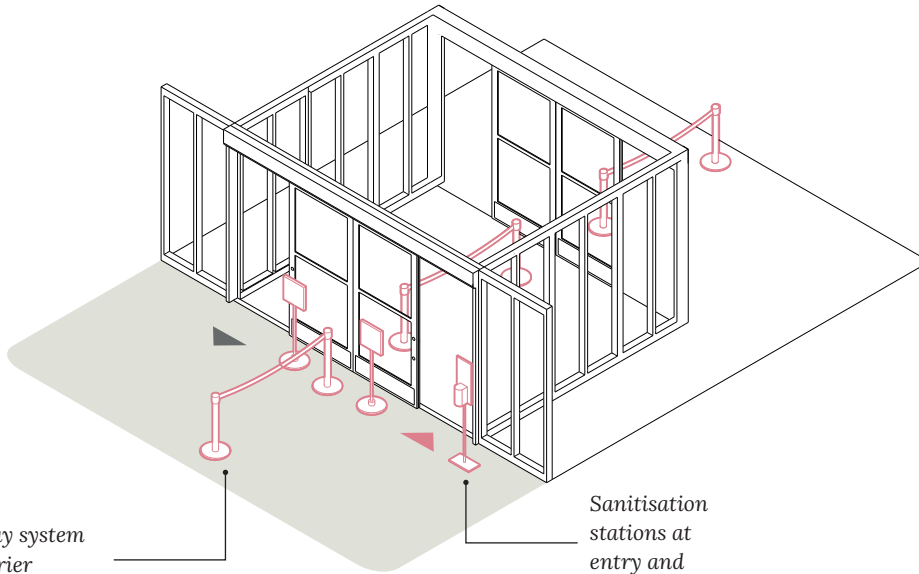
Where possible, install at entrance to visually indicate safe distance protocol



GENERAL FACILITIES

ENTRANCES

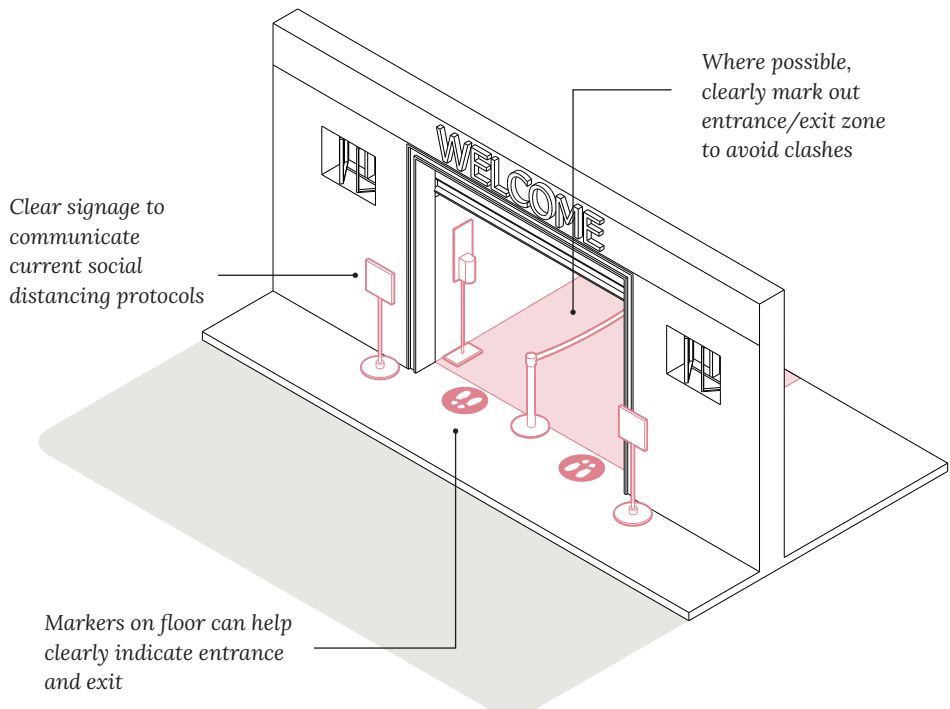
Automatic Door with Lobby



Consider one-way system separated by barrier

Sanitisation stations at entry and exit

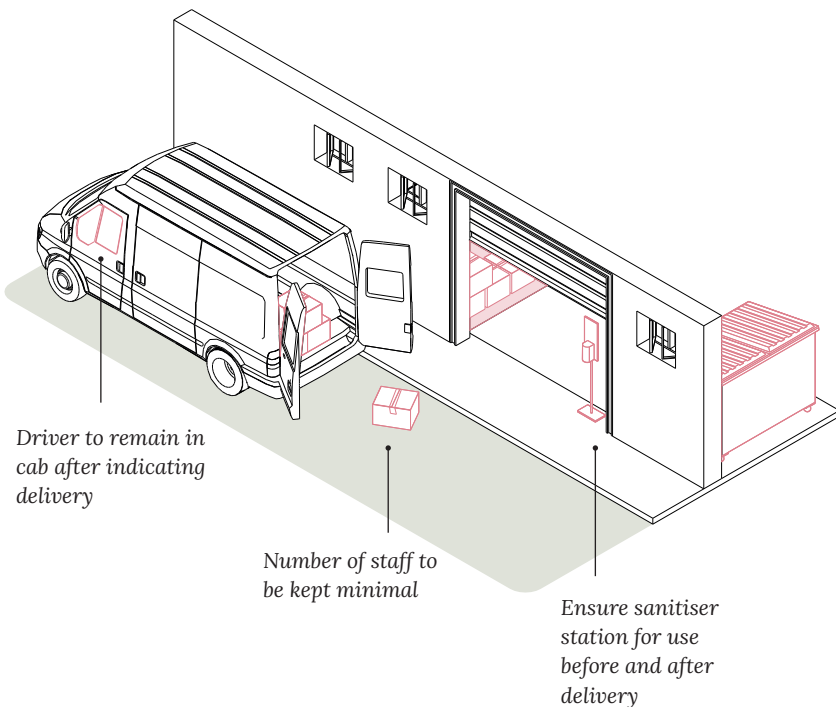
Roller Shutter Entrance



Clear signage to communicate current social distancing protocols

Where possible, clearly mark out entrance/exit zone to avoid clashes

Markers on floor can help clearly indicate entrance and exit



Driver to remain in cab after indicating delivery

Number of staff to be kept minimal

Ensure sanitiser station for use before and after delivery

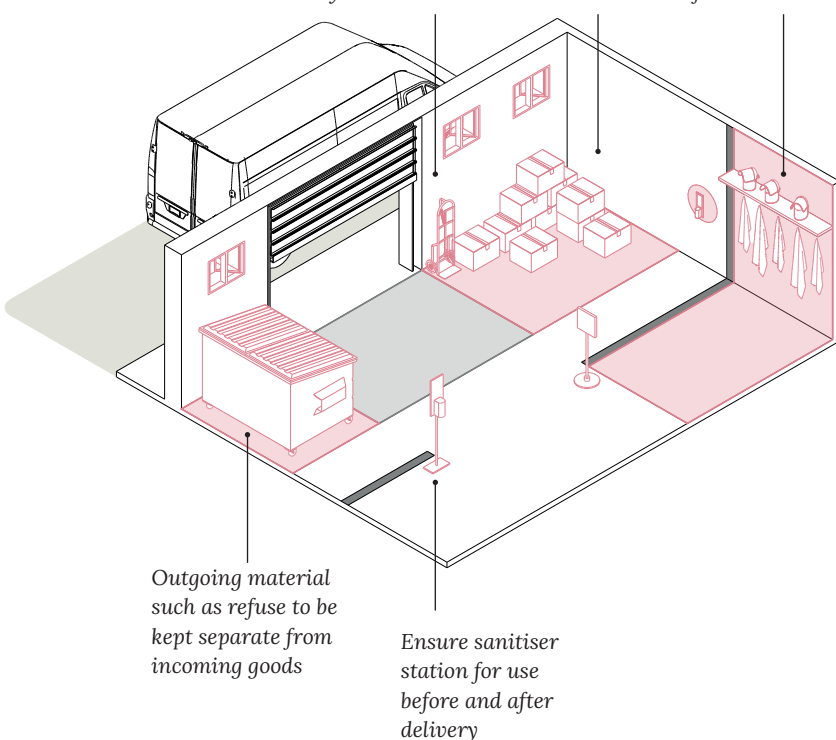
Deliveries Outside

Reduce workers unloading delivery, making use of the 'cohort' system. Delivery drivers to remain in the cab or minimise contact, unless taken ill, in which case welfare ought to be offered from traders.

Shared objects like hand trucks to be sanitized after delivery or use

Where possible, incoming goods to be quarantined in demarcated area

Separate PPE to be used for deliveries and quarantined after use



Outgoing material such as refuse to be kept separate from incoming goods

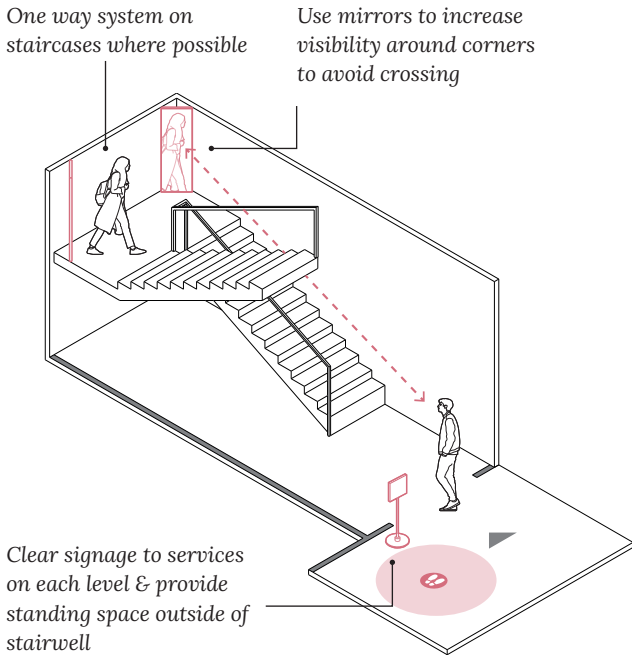
Ensure sanitiser station for use before and after delivery

Zoning Deliveries and Refuse

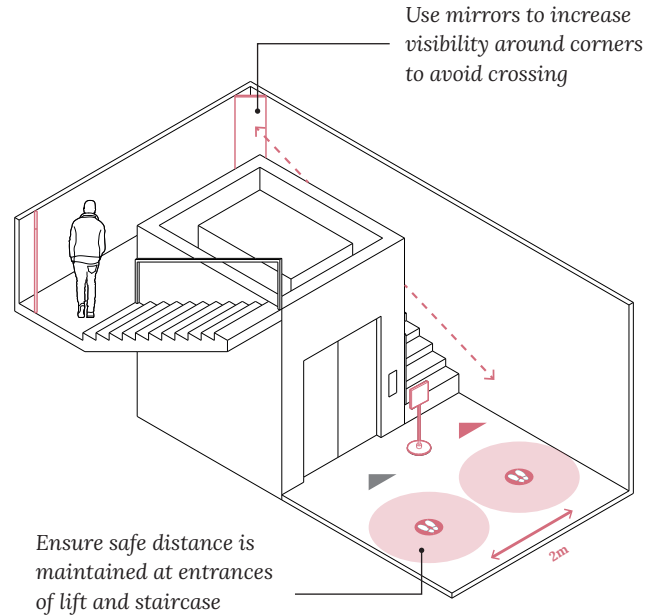
Clearly demarcated areas for deliveries and incoming goods to be safe distance from refuse storage and other outgoing objects that could potentially be contaminated. Consider wearing PPE during deliveries that can be removed and quarantined after.



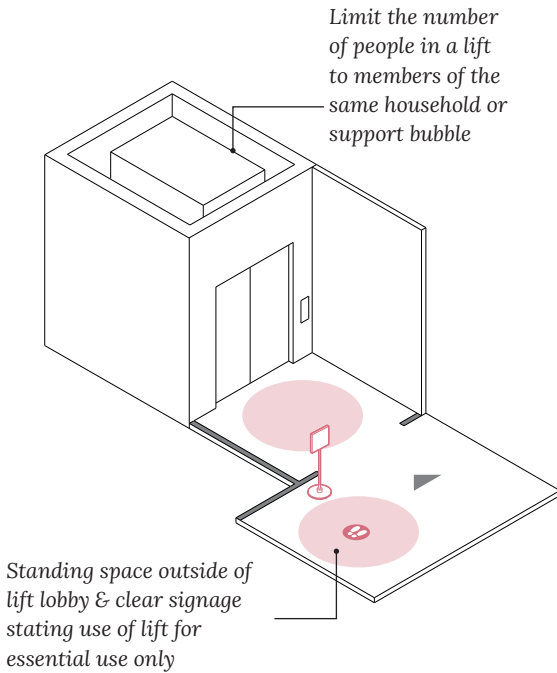
CIRCULATION



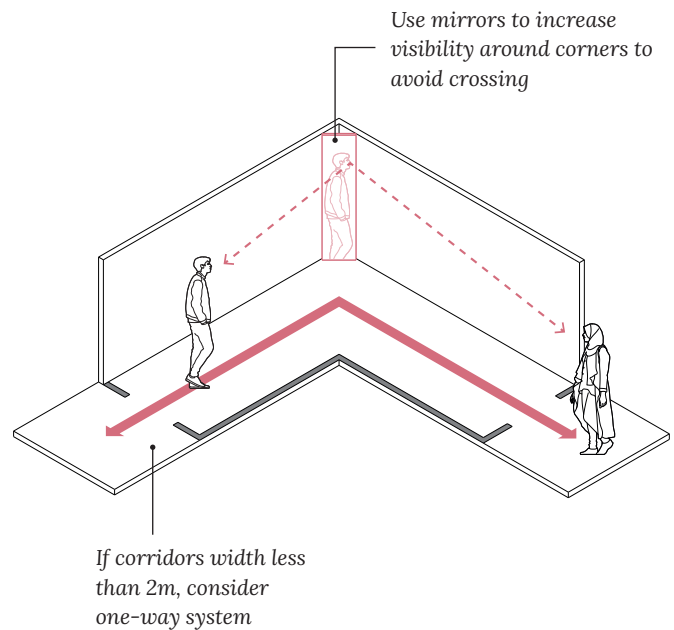
Single Staircase



Lift & Stair Core



Lift & Lobby

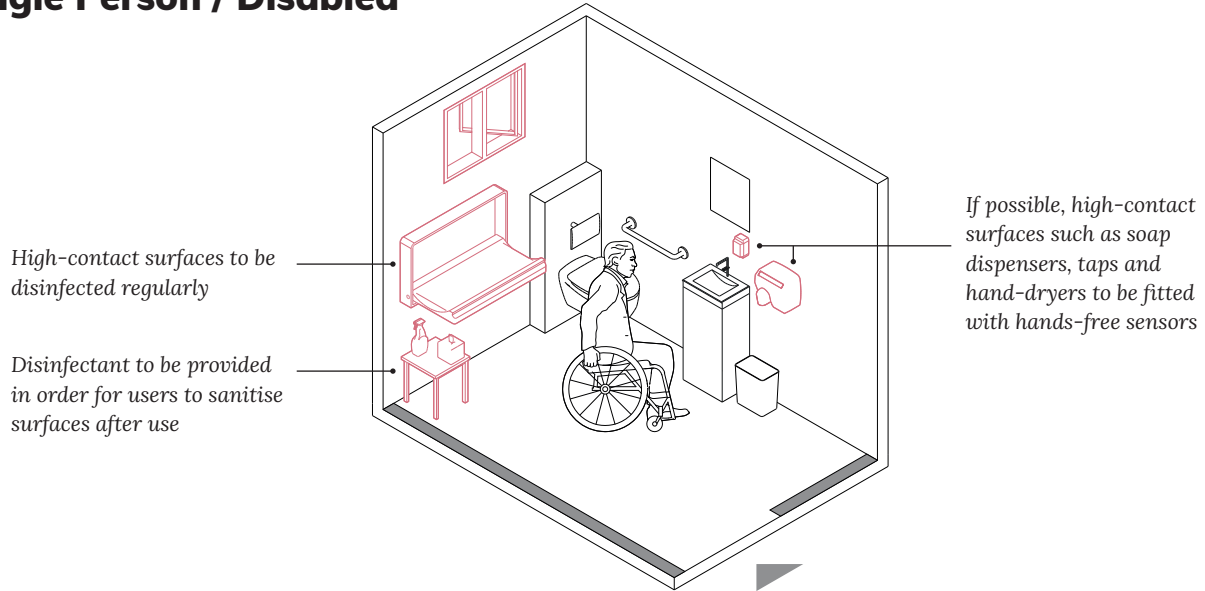


Corridors

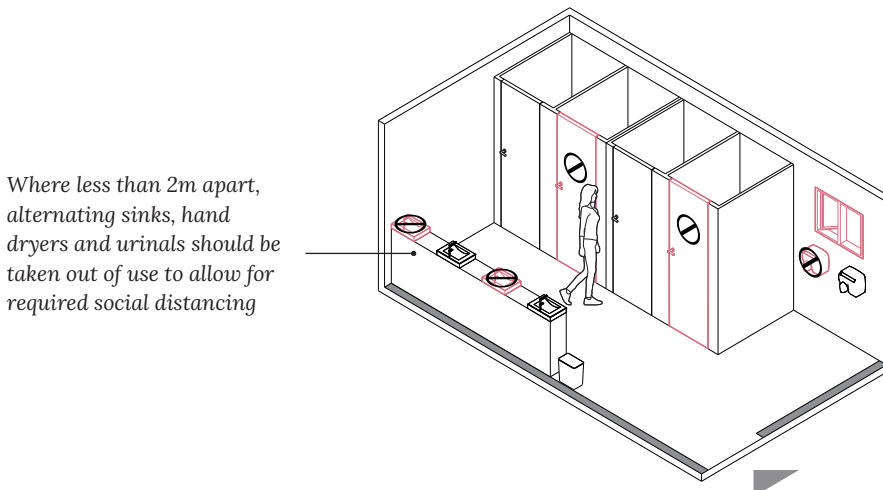
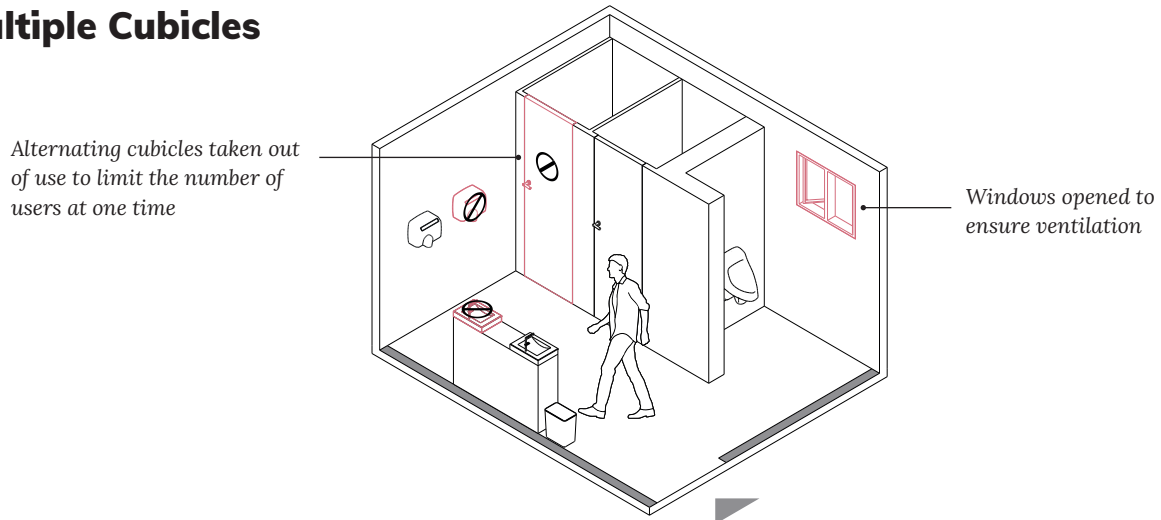
GENERAL FACILITIES TOILETS

Appropriate cleaning protocols to be established and maintained to comply with government guidance.

Single Person / Disabled



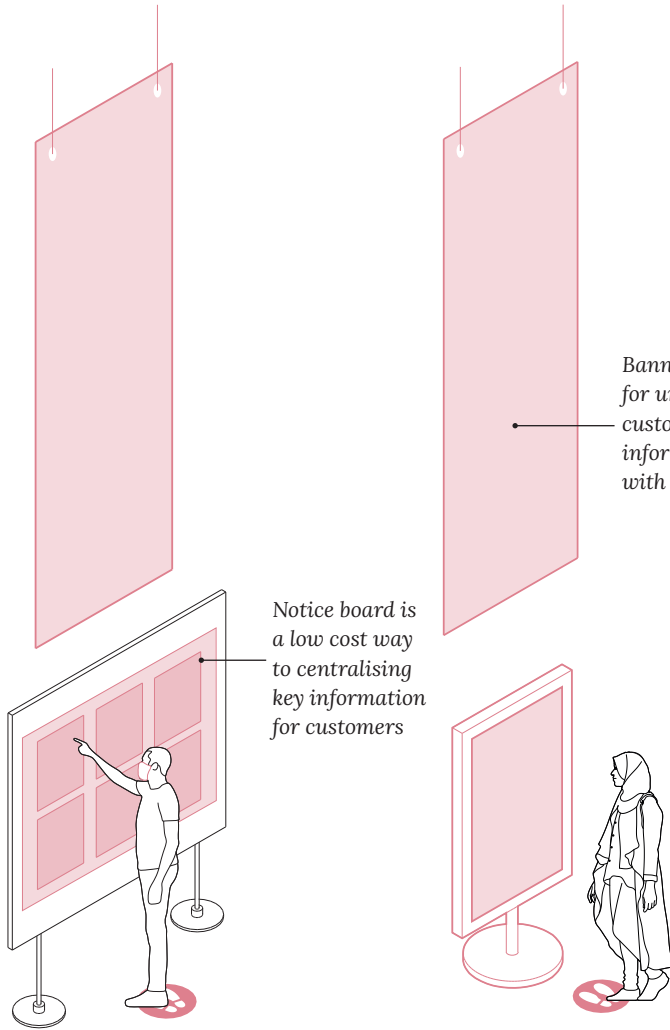
Multiple Cubicles





RECONFIGURATIONS

WELCOME ENVIRONMENT



Notice board is a low cost way to centralising key information for customers

Banners allow for unfamiliar customers to locate information board with ease

Clear Signage

Ensuring customers have all protocols and social distancing guidance communicated as clearly as possible will ensure a safe environment for all. This information could be translated into landmarks and thus easily located using a simple system of banners.

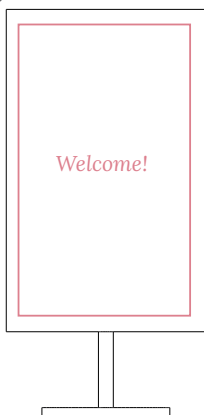
Digital Welcome Board

Where digital displays are available they can make updates to guidance more efficient and can employ more engaging graphics. A banner overhead can signal throughout the market the location of key information.

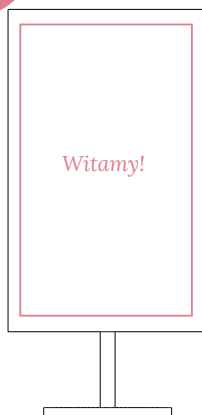
Translate!

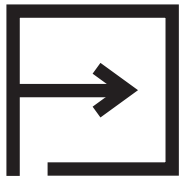
Digitizing notice boards can ensure guidance is translated and therefore read by those who do not use English as their first language.

BEFORE



AFTER



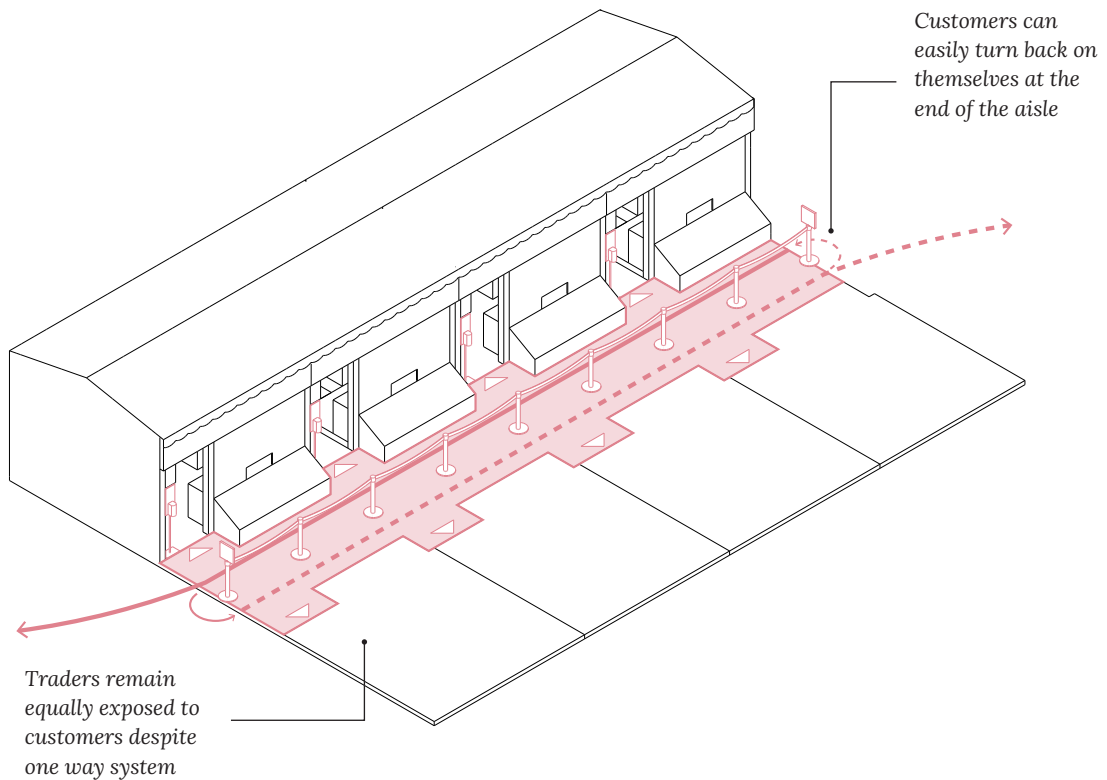


RECONFIGURATIONS

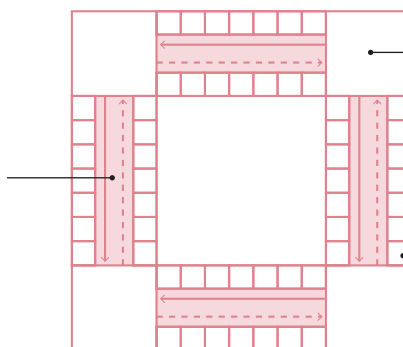
ONE-WAY

One-Way-System at Pinch Points

It may be necessary to implement small one-way-systems along narrow aisles to ensure safe distancing along pinch points, that do not compromise the exposure of each trader to potential customers.



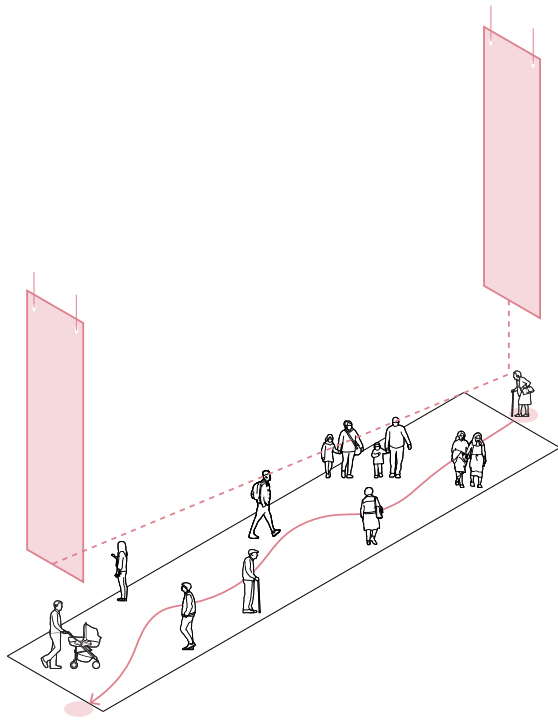
The system is only implemented at pinch points such as aisles that are especially narrow



Larger spaces at the end of aisles can permit free flow with mitigation i.e. face covering

This type of one-way-system ensures traders have an unbiased exposure to potential customers

RECONFIGURATIONS SIGHT LINES

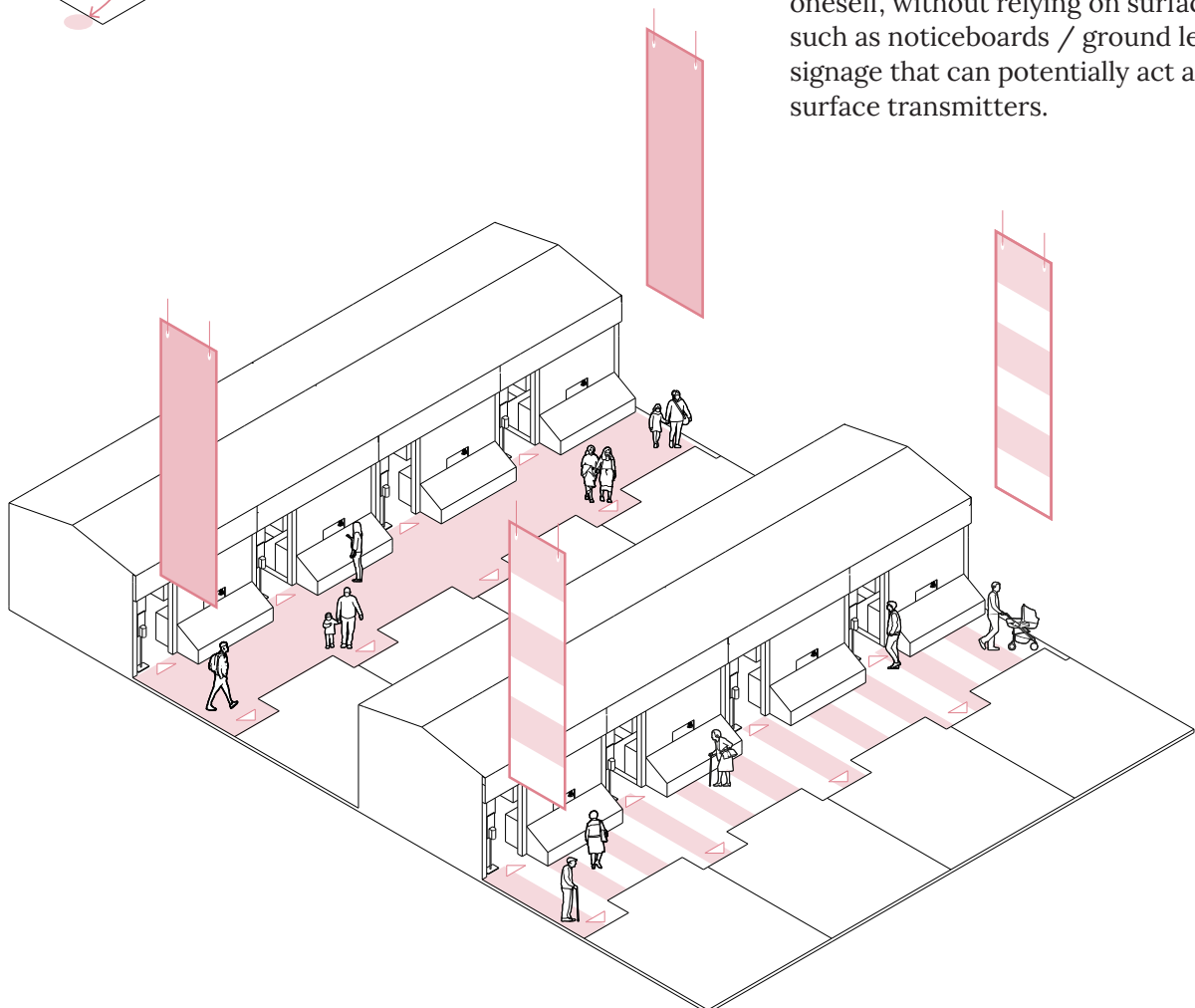


Interior Landmarks: Sight Lines

Consider making use of the tall internal spaces, using a simple system of colour coded banners to mark the start and end of narrow aisles, allowing customers to visually chart a clear passage through safely.

Interior Landmarks: Easier navigation

The colour coded banners can be used to establish different zones within the market to help locate and navigate oneself, without relying on surfaces such as noticeboards / ground level signage that can potentially act as surface transmitters.

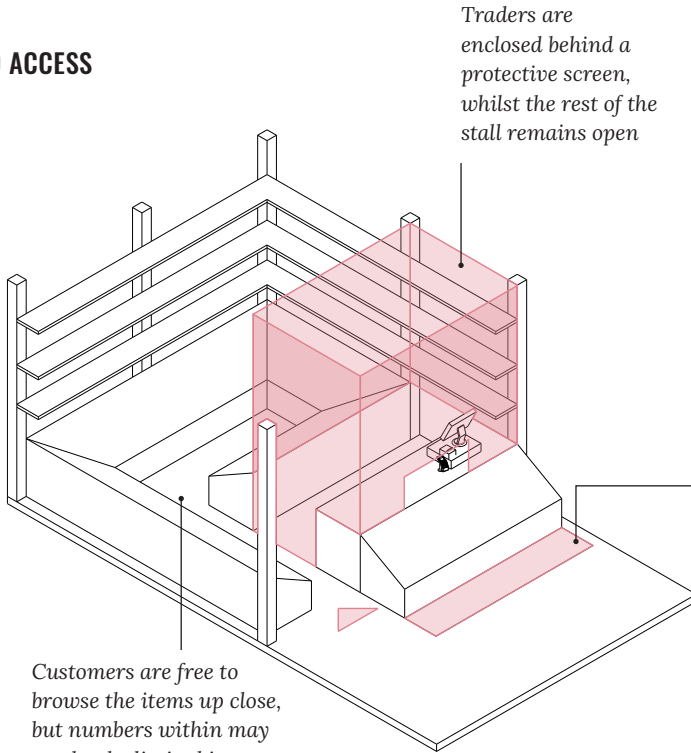




RECONFIGURATIONS

STALL ADAPTION

LIMITED ACCESS



Traders are enclosed behind a protective screen, whilst the rest of the stall remains open

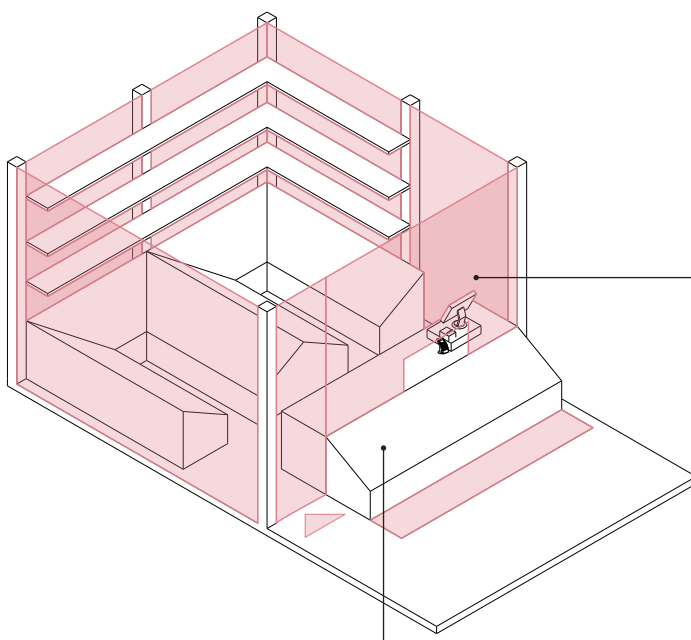
Customers are free to browse the items up close, but numbers within may need to be limited in accordance with social distancing guidance

Protecting Traders

Traders may want to consider limiting the number of customers in their stall at one time and ensure their own working area is protected by screens.

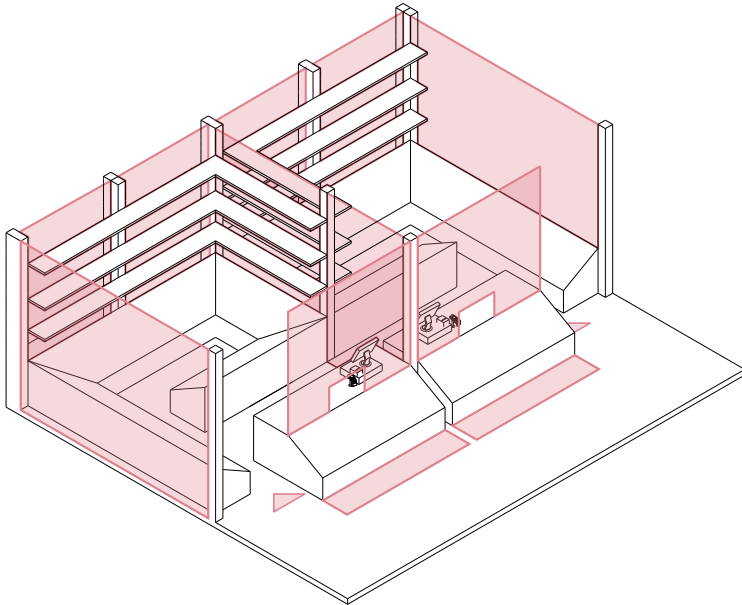
A designated zone marked on the ground differentiates the area for customers from general circulation

FULLY ENCLOSED



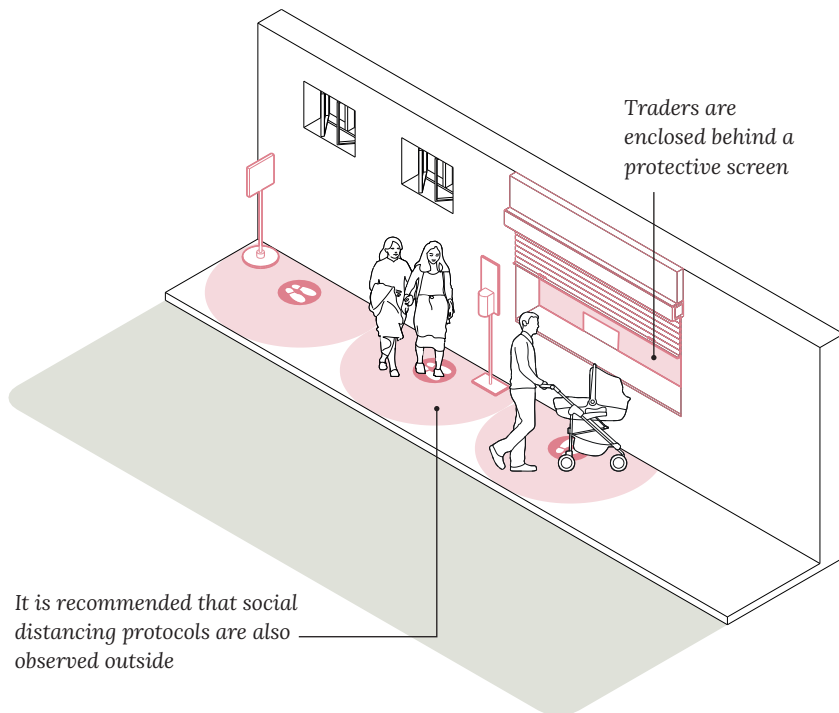
Traders may decide to fully enclose their stall, and orientate their goods such that everything is in sight of the customer outside, who can then choose at a safe distance. This scenario may be more appropriate for more vulnerable or less confident traders

Only a limited selection of goods might be left on display for customers to browse through in person



Fitting Protective Screens

Where there is no physical separation between stalls, consider installing partitions to protect traders and customers.



Utilising Service Hatches

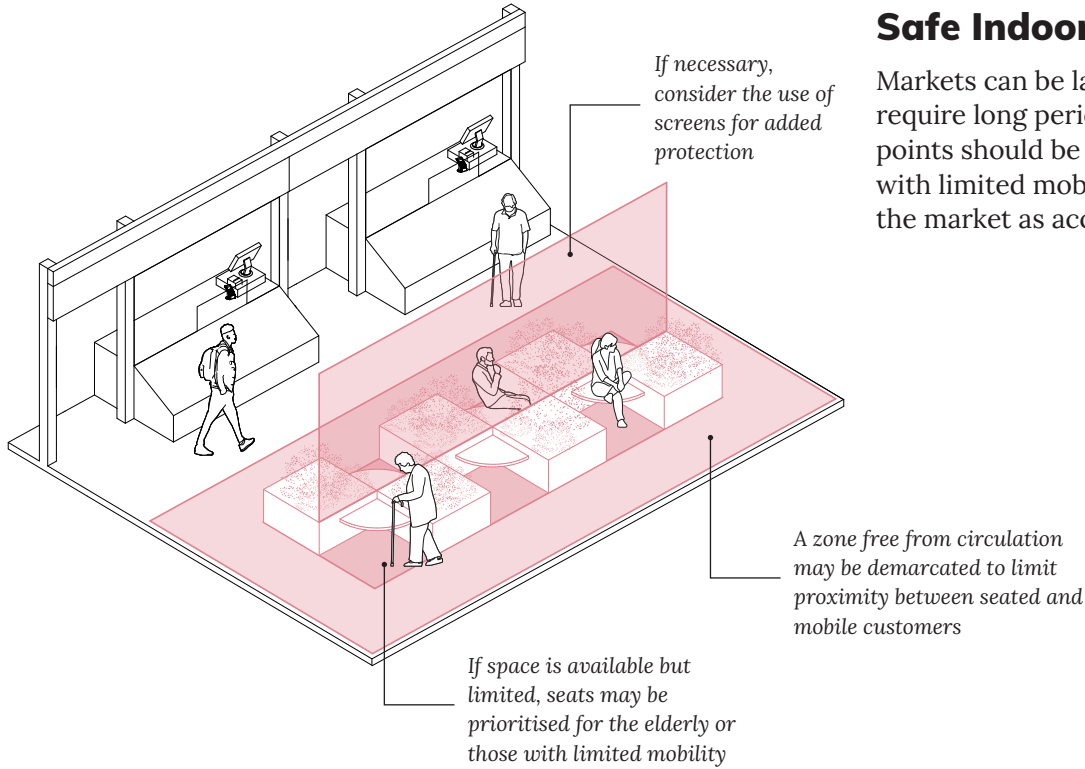
Back of house entry points to the market might be used to hand over produce to customers who don't yet feel comfortable entering the market.

It is recommended that social distancing protocols are also observed outside



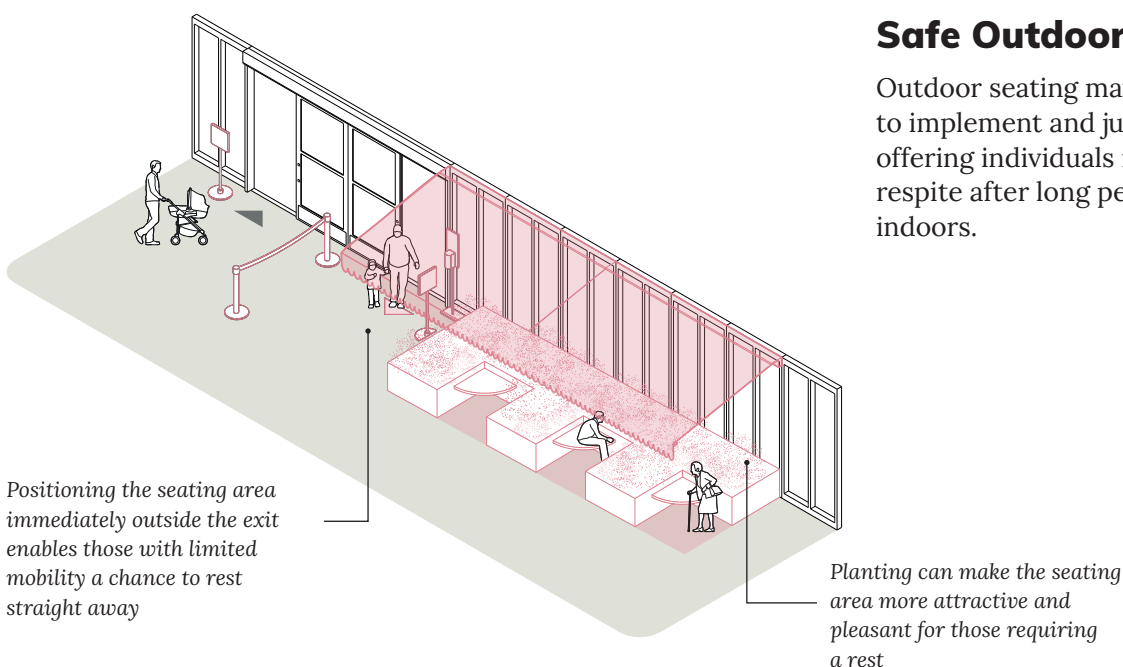
RECONFIGURATIONS

MANAGING MOVEMENT



Safe Indoor Seating

Markets can be large spaces and require long periods of movement. Rest points should be considered for those with limited mobility, in order to make the market as accessible as possible.



Safe Outdoor Seating

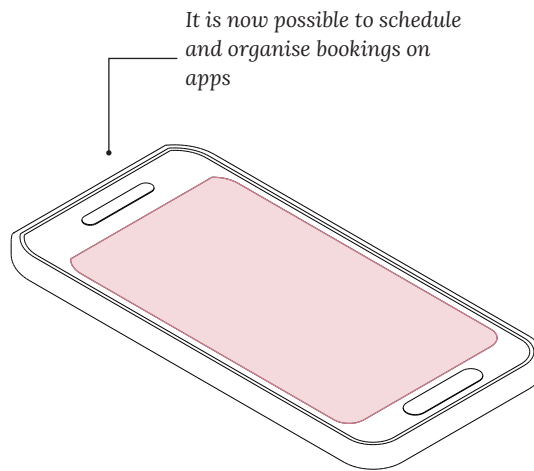
Outdoor seating may be more feasible to implement and just as vital for offering individuals moments of respite after long periods of movement indoors.



RECONFIGURATIONS EATERIES

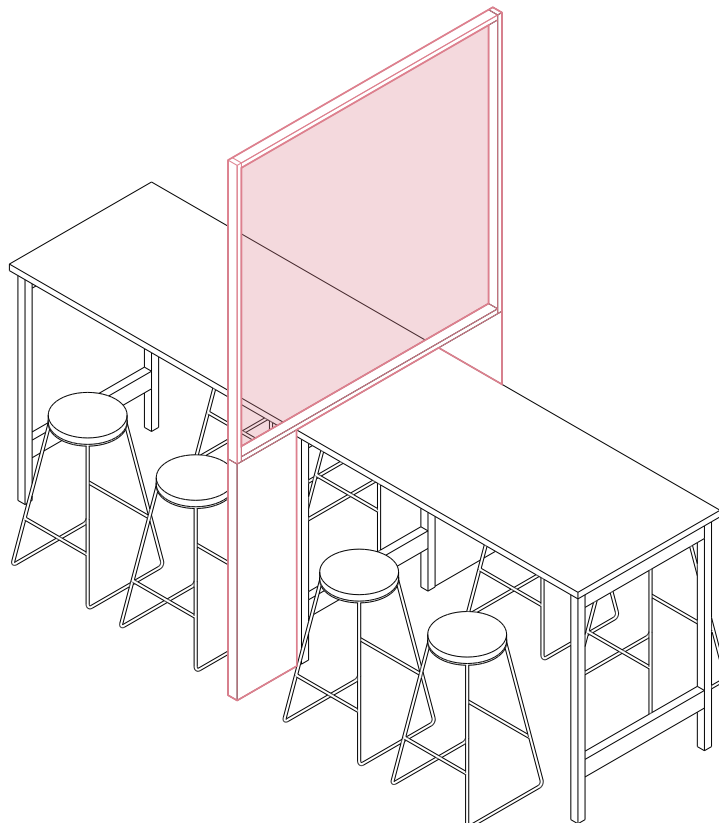
Ordering Food via an App

Many eateries require ordering in person, and thus close interaction between trader and seller. An app can replace this process, with food ordered at and served directly to the table, reducing contact/exposure between parties.



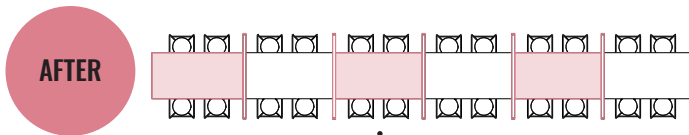
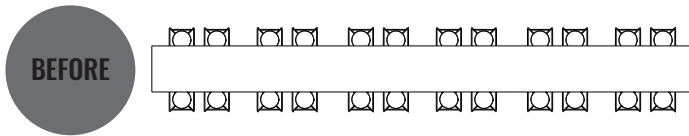
Introducing Screen Guards

Instead of reducing seating, consider installing protective screens between seating areas to maximise capacity whilst upholding current social distance guidance.



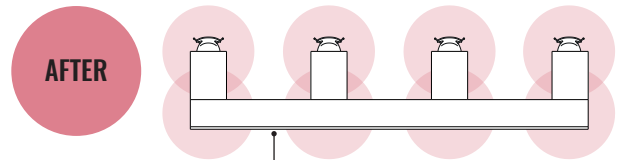
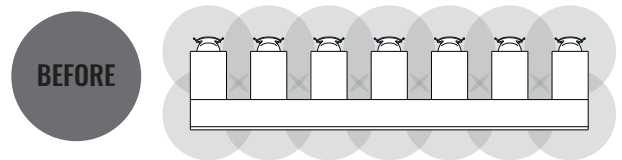
RECONFIGURATIONS SEATING

Canteen / High Top Bench



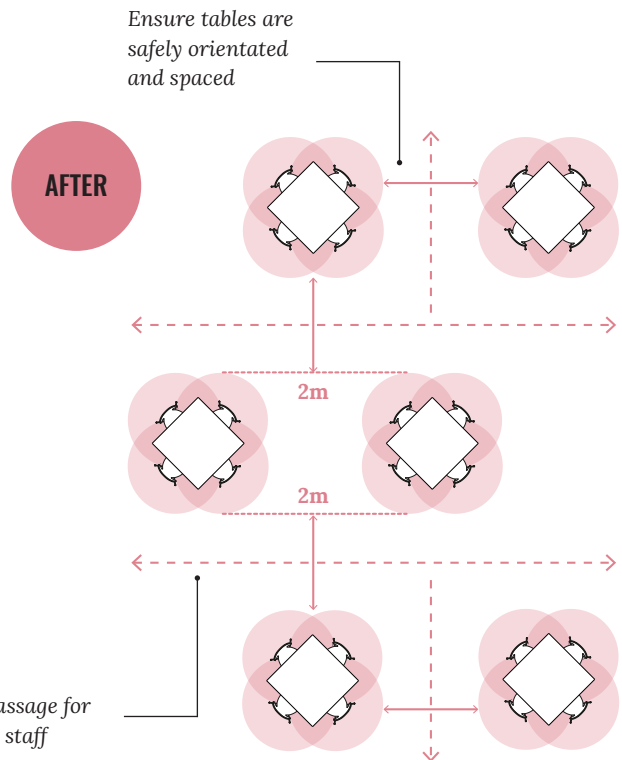
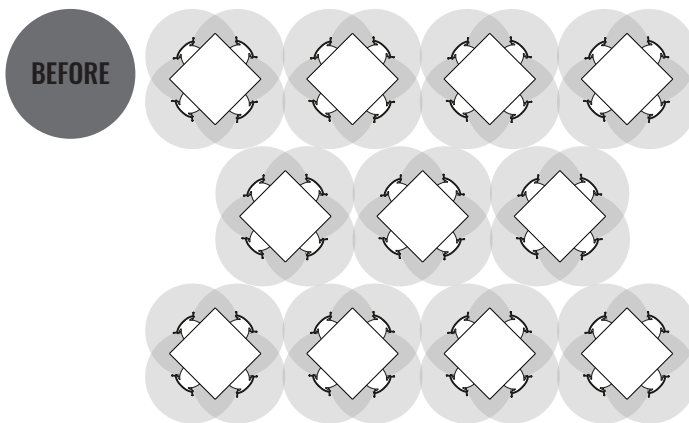
Long canteen tables to be subdivided with perspex screens to create booths

Banquet / Bench



Alternate tables removed to ensure safe distance between customers

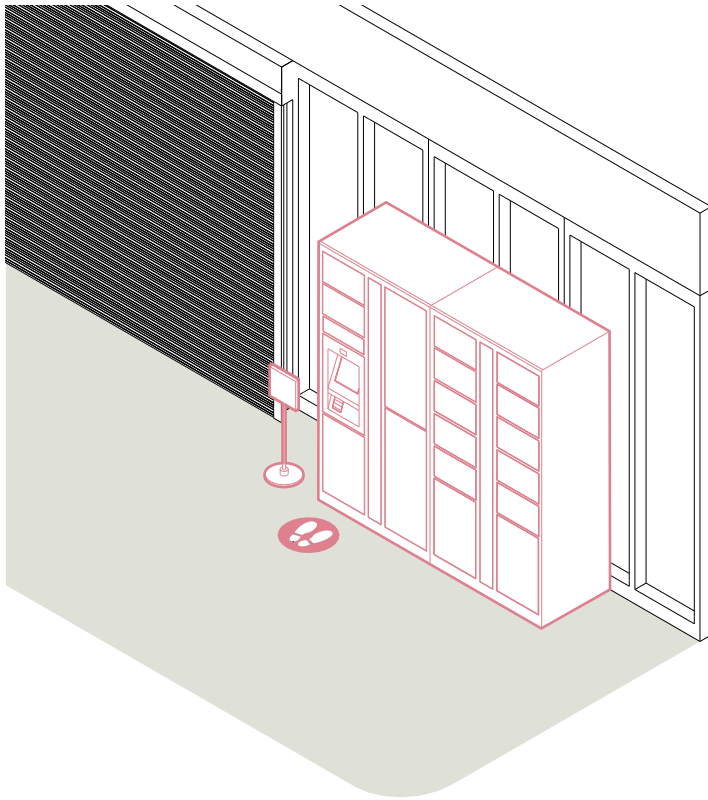
Tables





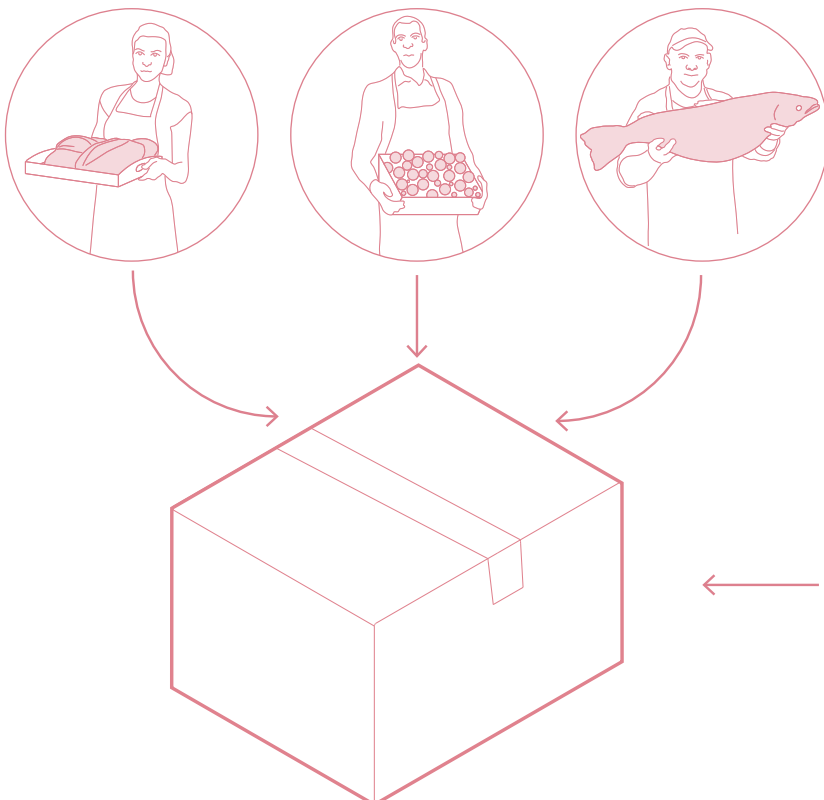
RESILIENCE

CLICK + COLLECT



Accommodating Varied Working Hours

Often the working hours of customers and traders do not align, reducing potential sales. The use of technology could reconcile this, such as the introduction of click and collect services, whereby customers can purchase via an app and collect their produce long after the trader as packed up for the day.



Co-App

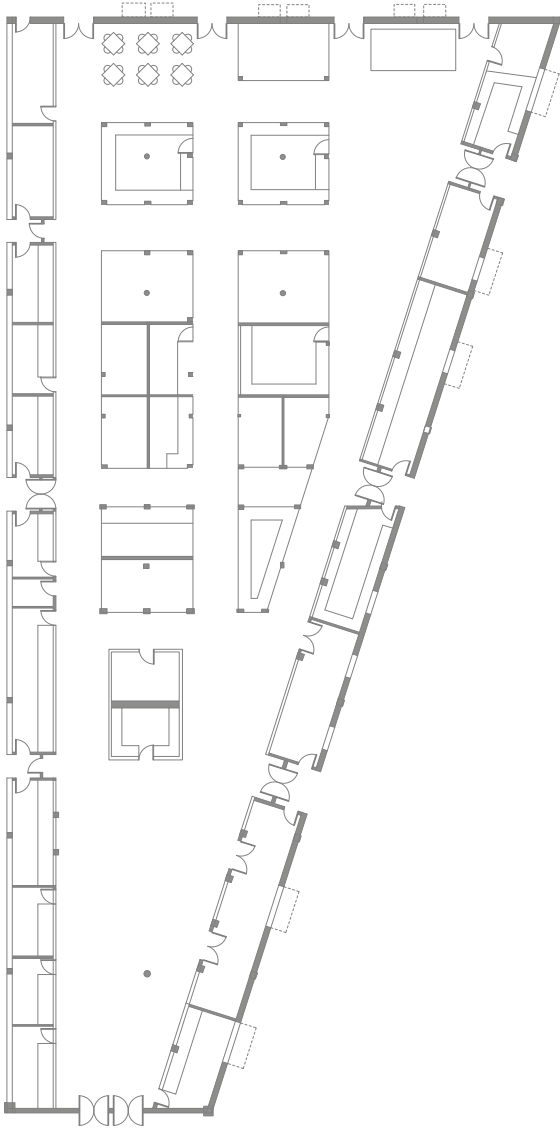
An app that collates all services in the market can encourage stalls to cooperate and create packages for customers who are not able to visit the market in person.

CASE STUDIES

SMALL

MPML Stockport Market, Greater Manchester

BEFORE



External glass and cast iron facade with service hatches



Typical stall layout within

MPML Stockport Market has one main entrance, and multiple smaller entrances, of which some can be designated the role of exit in order to minimise proximity between incoming and outgoing customers. Tall ceilings offer an opportunity to introduce a simple system of banners that can assist newcomers in navigating themselves around the market. As the majority of aisles are only 2.2m wide, short sections of one-way-systems along these aisles can manage a safe flow of people without compromising the exposure of traders stalls. A cafe at one end of the market will need to rearrange its seating to comply with existing social distancing guidelines; in the leftover spaces it might be worthwhile introducing a small amount of seating to offer the elderly or those with limited mobility the chance to rest, whilst discouraging others from lingering in the empty space. For stalls along the outside edge of the market, service hatches enable traders to engage with customers who do not yet feel comfortable with entering the market.

SMALL

MPML Stockport Market, Greater Manchester

AFTER

Seating must be arranged in such a way that complies with social distance guidance

Outside of pinch points circulation can be unrestricted to enable customers to move more freely through the space

Banners suspended from tall ceilings can help newcomers navigate themselves

Previously open areas may have rows of seating installed to offer a moment of rest for customers

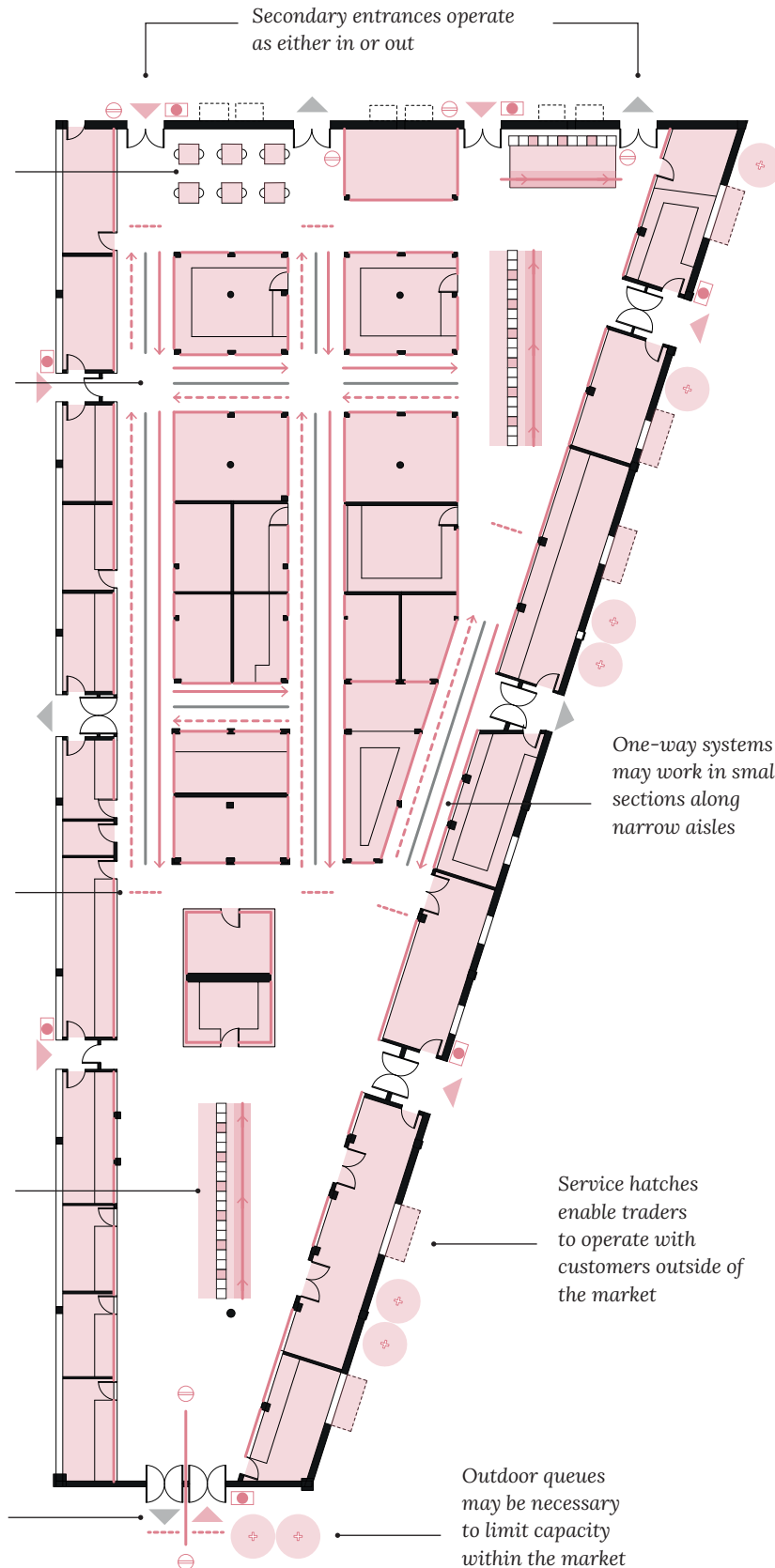
Entrances may need to be separated to operate as exits

Secondary entrances operate as either in or out

One-way systems may work in small sections along narrow aisles

Service hatches enable traders to operate with customers outside of the market

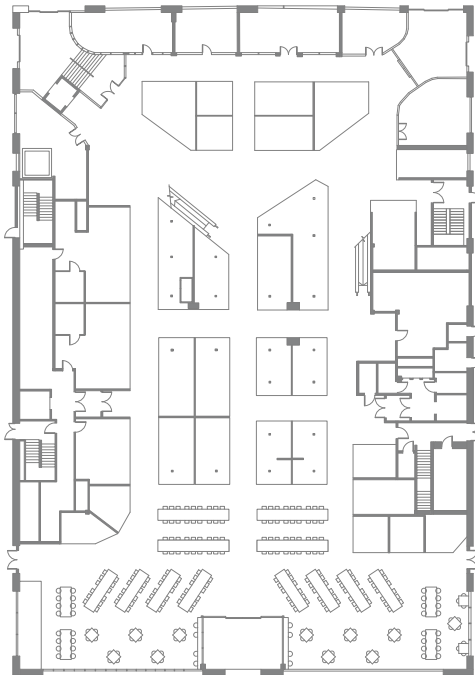
Outdoor queues may be necessary to limit capacity within the market



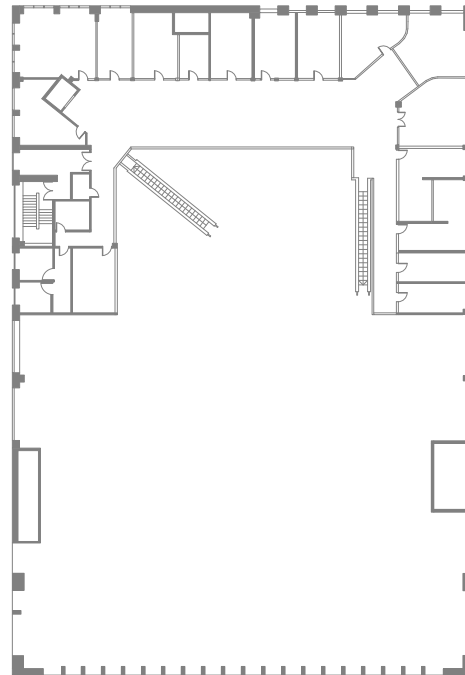
LARGE

Warrington Market, Cheshire

BEFORE



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



Main entrance and plaza with outdoor seating area



Indoor food court with high benches adapted with perspex screens

The newly opened Warrington Market has a food court situated just inside the main entrance, which is able to expand into a plaza outside, offering ample space for socially distanced table arrangements. Three main parallel axes organise the stall layout inside, which might have banners suspended above each aisle in order to help newcomers navigate themselves. The market contains two escalators, with one designated to take customers up to the mezzanine and the other back down the ground floor; a single lift should be used by one household or support bubble at a time. The majority of the stalls in the centre of the market have several sides open to an adjacent stall or thoroughfare. Traders are therefore recommended to install protective screens to limit face-to-face contact with others throughout the day.

CASE STUDY

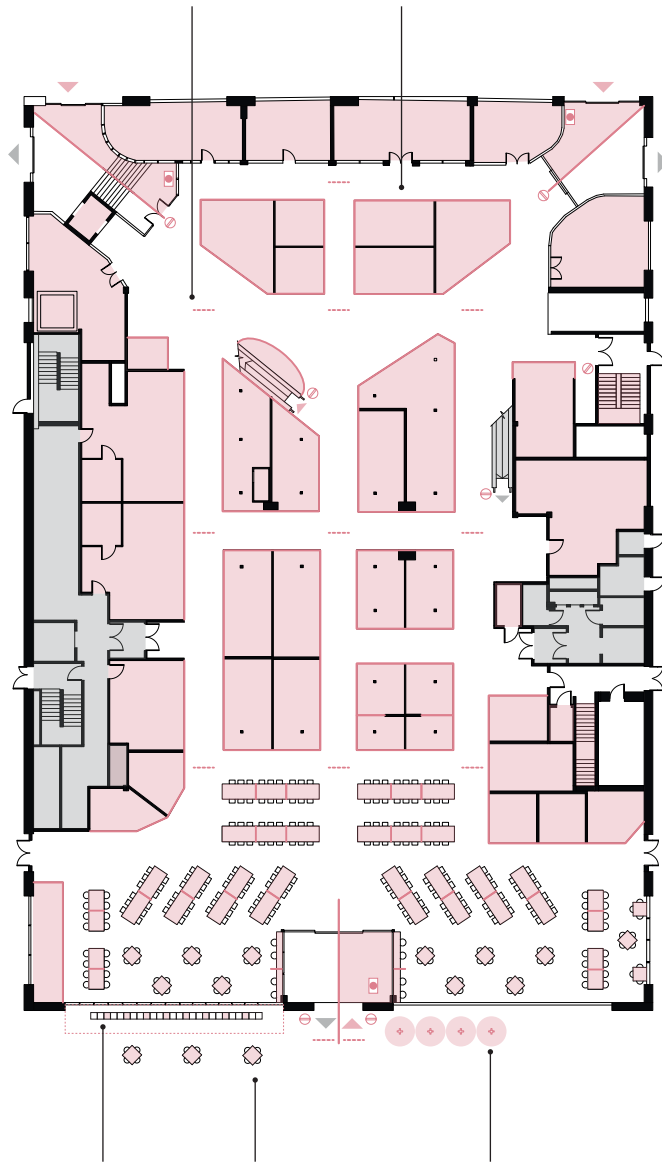
LARGE

Warrington Market, Cheshire

AFTER

Banners suspended from tall ceilings can help newcomers navigate themselves

Unenclosed stalls should consider introducing partitions to help protect traders



Where possible, rest seating should be located directly outside the main exit

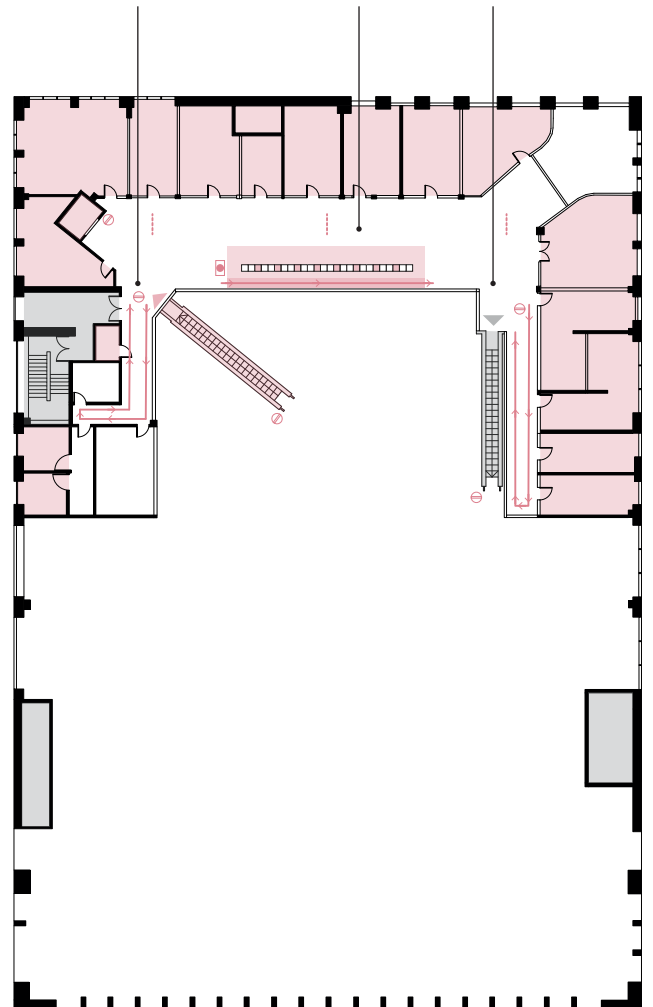
Where possible, make use of outdoor space for eateries to locate seating

Outdoor queues may be necessary to limit capacity within the market

One-way systems should be considered at pinch points

Previously open areas may have rows of seating installed to offer a moment of rest for customers

Escalators should be integrated within one-way-systems



This document has been developed with and should be read alongside the NABMA Guidance and all relevant Government guidance. Please note that knowledge of Covid-19 and best practice guidelines in response to it are evolving, and that this document may be updated to reflect ongoing learning.

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COVID ——— 19
**SAFER
SPACES**