



These guidelines are based on information we have on the COVID-19 virus as of April 5, 2020, and are subject to change at any time. There is always a possibility that conditions or local mandates could change and we will have to close the gardens. If you are a community gardener, please make sure you are subscribed to your garden's email list-serv to stay up to date on the latest developments. To join the list-serv, contact your Garden Program Manager, Van Hoover ([van@wasatchgardens.org](mailto:van@wasatchgardens.org)) or Giles Larsen ([giles@wasatchgardens.org](mailto:giles@wasatchgardens.org)). Many of these guidelines have been adapted from the Vermont Community Garden Network's recommendations, in consultation with community garden programs across the country. <https://vcgn.org/covid-19-guidelines/>

## Physical Distancing

- Stay home as much as possible and limit time in the garden to only the most necessary activities.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- If you have had close contact with someone who is sick, please stay away from the garden for at least 14 days.
- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others at all times.
- Gatherings, work parties, potlucks, etc. are not permitted.
- Gardens are now limited to 2 people at a time. If you go to the garden and there are already 2 people in the garden, please wait until one person leaves, or return another time. Garden Program Managers are developing an online tool to help schedule gardener access to the gardens.

## Hand Hygiene

- Cover coughs and sneezes – use a tissue or your sleeve – not your hand.
- Frequently wash hands with soap and water – for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

## Sanitation

Research suggests that COVID-19 virus can live for up to 3 days on surfaces (plastics 72 hrs, stainless steel 48 hrs, cardboard 24 hrs – based on an article in [New England Journal of Medicine](#)). When you are at the garden, always assume that shared surfaces you touch may be contaminated.

- Sanitize any shared surfaces that you touch, including locks, tools, and handles **before AND after use** with [CDC-approved disinfectants](#). The protocol for surface disinfection is to **spray, wipe, spray again** and leave that on the surface.
- If you don't have disinfectant supplies with you when you come to the garden, do not touch shared surfaces.
- Do not leave personal tools or other items in the garden.
- To reduce shared surface exposure in the gardens, sheds are now closed to gardener use, and waste bins are being removed. Please pack out your own trash.

## Community

There is much we can still do to stay connected and help each other through this challenging time.

- Stay connected through the garden list-serv and reach out to your Garden Program Manager with any questions or concerns.
- Reach out to other gardeners who may need assistance, when you can, to offer help.
- Individuals with underlying health conditions and older adults are particularly at risk for serious complications from COVID-19. If you are at high risk, consider staying home entirely and asking for help with your garden plot during the outbreak. We are in this together.
- Consider growing extra produce to donate, if you can.