



These guidelines are based on information we have on the COVID-19 virus as of May 22, 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) or Giles Larsen (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

- Limit time in the garden to only the most necessary activities.
- Stay home if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including shortness of breath, new or worsening cough, sore throat, fever, muscle soreness, or loss of taste or smell.
- If you have had close contact (closer than 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) with someone with COVID-19, 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 limited in the number of people who can safely visit at a time. Please use your garden's online sign-up form to schedule your garden visits. (Staff doing maintenance and individuals without internet access who have received approval from WCG staff are exempt from the sign-up requirement. Please contact us if you need to request an exemption.)

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.

Shared Surfaces

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 closed to gardener use, and waste bins are currently removed. Please pack out your own trash.

Community

There is much we can do to stay connected and help each other through this 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.
- Grow extra produce to donate if you can.
- Individuals with certain underlying health conditions and adults over 65 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. Please communicate with your Garden Program Manager if you have a friend who will be helping you with your garden.

