



Safety in the Time of COVID-19 Best Practices for a Community Garden

Community gardening for food production is an allowed outdoor activity under the Safer at Home Order and gardens can remain open. These guidelines are here to keep you and others safe and our garden open.

The two most important practices in the garden this summer are:

1. **Physical distancing** among non-family members - *Maintain distances of 6 feet apart at all times*
2. **Wash or sanitize hands regularly** - before and after visiting the garden and regularly while at the garden - glove use of any kind is *no substitute for hand washing*

What are some things to keep in mind while gardening in a community space this summer?

- **Do not garden if you are sick or you may have been exposed to coronavirus** - protect the health of your fellow gardeners and stay home if you are not feeling well, especially if you have a fever or cough, or if someone in your family is sick
- **No** workshops, work days, events or other group gatherings are allowed at the community garden
- **Avoid touching your hands to your face**, especially your eyes, nose or mouth when in the garden - as an extra precaution, consider wearing a face covering
- **Bring your own tools to the garden** and do not share your tools with other gardeners - you are responsible for cleaning and sanitizing your tools - if using shared tools, wash the tools and your hands well with soap and water before and after use
- **Wash hands before and after handling hoses** since they can not be easily cleaned or use your own hoses, watering cans/jugs
- **Regularly clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces** such as gate latches, water spigots, wheel barrels
- **Limit interactions and time spent at the garden - until further notice, avoid groupings of more than 10** - if necessary, come back to garden later - avoid more than 1 person at a time in the garden shed or going through the gate (if applicable)
- **Bring your own** sanitizer or disinfecting wipes or bring some to share or donate for the garden community to use, if you have spare

Social distancing does not mean social isolation

Stay in Touch, Stay Engaged

Keep your distance

- Limiting physical contact between people is the best strategy to slow the spread of COVID-19, and it is saving lives.



Photo: Laura Kuennen

Information Sources:

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services COVID-19 Guidance for Community Gardens:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/community.htm>
- Food Safety in the Time of COVID-19: Best practices for a community garden:
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/safefood/2020/05/01/food-safety-in-the-time-of-covid-19-best-practices-for-a-community-garden/>