

COVID-19 FAQ FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS

STEPS FOR GARDEN MANAGERS AND GARDENERS

BEST PRACTICES

- Postpone any large events or gatherings to avoid large numbers of people in close proximity.
 - Consider limiting the number of visitors, or closing the garden to the public.
- If gardens stay open to the public, have a manager or gardener present to monitor the garden and visitors.
- Masks are not necessary, as they are not protective to healthy people, but prevent the spread of the virus from sick people.

COMMUNICATION

- **Communicate that anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or have come in contact with someone who has, should not come to the gardens and if they are displaying symptoms on site they will be asked to leave.**
- Communicate to gardeners and the public through signs, social media or newsletters, etc.
- Communicate that gardeners will not work if they have symptoms or were exposed.
- Remind visitors of school gardens to follow school procedures and/or closures.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- Gardens should provide handwashing stations, if at all possible, and/or hand sanitizer to all guests and request that they wash their hands before entering the garden and upon exiting.
- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis, including: reusable bins and buckets, shared tools, railings, doorknobs, tables, etc.
 - Use non-porous plastic tables that can be easily disinfected whenever possible.
- CDC advises using compounds on the list of EPA recommended disinfectants, which can be found at: go.ncsu.edu/epacovid-19
 - **Note: this list is based on current data, but compounds have not been validated for inactivation of the virus causing COVID-19**
 - Bleach may be used to disinfect surfaces, but the concentration is higher for COVID-19 than for everyday sanitation: 5 tablespoons bleach per gallon of water

THE GOOD NEWS

COVID-19 is not a foodborne illness. It is extremely unlikely that someone will catch it through eating. The virus is most likely to cause illness through respiratory transmission, not eating. The routes to be concerned about include being in very close proximity to many people or coming in contact with high touch surfaces.

