



COMMUNITY GARDEN GUIDELINES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Yes, you can operate your community garden during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this emergency, we want to help our community garden committees and leaders make the best decisions and spread the most useful information to the communities they serve. Below are guidelines to help gardeners protect each other and implement best practices during these times of uncertainty.

1. Stay informed.

Establish ongoing communication with your local public health department. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says building strong alliances before an outbreak may provide your organization with the support and resources needed to respond effectively. For a list of North Carolina health departments, see <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/county-health-departments>. For updates on the state's response to COVID-19 see the [Department of Health and Human Service website](#).

2. Communicate.

Contact garden members to let them know what the advisory committee is doing to keep people safe and how they plan to move forward during this public health crisis. Keep gardeners informed.

3. Enjoy the outdoors.

Continue to remain open to your members, as the garden is in an outdoor environment. However, limit the number of people in the garden to no more than 50 at a time.

4. Keep your distance.

Follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines. This means gardeners should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other gardeners.



5. Cancel events.

Avoid gatherings and if you have workdays, go over the protocol beforehand and provide the necessary supplies to maintain protocol.

6. Stay sanitary.

Wear gloves and sanitize any home tools that you use in the garden. Also, sanitize your hands before and after using shared tools.

7. Stay home.

If you feel sick or have a temperature or cough, please stay home and call your physician. Get better.

8. Stay sanitary, part 2.

Sanitize all gates, shed handles and all other communal spaces and equipment that people touch regularly after using.

9. Avoid isolation.

Social distancing is necessary, but not social isolation. Continue to keep garden members engaged by giving online workshops, and sending recipes and newsletters. Use this time to do the planning and organizing you never have time for.

For more information, see NC State's [COVID-19 FAQ for Community Gardens](#).

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The information below comes from the [CDC website](#) recommendations for community and faith-based organizations:

PROVIDE COVID-PREVENTION SUPPLIES TO STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND THOSE YOU SERVE

- Ensure that your organization has supplies, such as hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, tissues, and trash baskets for staff, volunteers and those you serve. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs and cabinet handles) using a regular detergent and water.
- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent and water prior to disinfection. For disinfection, a list of products with Environmental Protection Agency-approved emerging viral pathogens claims is available from the American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC). Visit <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.



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