

COVID-19 Guidelines for safe community gardening
From Hannah Traggis, Wareham Community Garden, Massachusetts

1. General Notes and Guidelines

- a. The virus can live up to 2 days outside of its animal host body. Current research suggests the COVID-19 virus can live for up to 2 days on various surfaces. Possibly longer, possibly less, depending on the actual surface material. We do not know exactly how long it can live, but this is a good parameter to use when making assumptions about what we can and can't touch.
- b. Soap, alcohol and bleach are the best agents to kill the virus. Soap is VERY effective.
 - i. Consider carrying a ziplock bag with very soapy water and a washcloth inside it with you at all times. Makes hand washing very easy anywhere you are.
- c. Gloves do not replace proper sanitation procedures. The outside of your glove can transmit diseases from one surface to another, including transmitting the disease to yourself and others.
- d. Bring sanitizing wipes and be prepared to wipe anything down that you touch that someone else might also touch
- e. Do not assume anyone else has followed these guidelines.
- f. Be proactive, bring your own sanitizing wipes and use them.
- g. Guidelines will be laminated and posted throughout the garden

2. Tools:

- a. Committee will remove all 'community' shared tools for the time being
- b. No tools should be left in the garden.
- c. All carts, but the one Vermont garden cart, will be removed (see below for usage guidelines)
- d. Gardeners need to bring and use their own tools
- e. Gardeners need to take their tools home when they are done for the day

3. If using a hose

- a. Bring sanitizing wipes and wipe down what you touch
- b. Thoroughly wipe down the hose nozzle **BEFORE AND AFTER USE**

4. Garden cart: (committee will make a sign for the cart)

- a. Use sanitizing wipes to thoroughly wipe down the handle **BEFORE AND AFTER** using the cart.

5. Composting bins

- a. Please do not handle the compost bin lids. They will be removed by the committee and placed behind the bins. Please leave the lids where they are.

6. Social Distancing and other procedures

- a. Maintain at least 6' between yourself and other gardeners.
- b. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue that fully and tightly covers your mouth.
 - i. Dispose of the tissue immediately. Wash your hands.
 - ii. If using your sleeve, remember that it is now carrying whatever came out of your mouth or nose, including germs. Assume those germs are alive and can live for up to 2 days. Take care bringing that sleeve into contact with anyone or anything that someone might touch afterwards.