

Tri-County Health Department Recommendations for Community Gardens - COVID-19

Proposed policy/guideline	Rationale	Proposed Strategies
<p>Design and manage garden layout and logistics to maintain social distancing at all times.</p>	<p>Gardens will ensure that participants and garden staff maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet from each other at all times [Per the .CDC: COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact (within about 6 feet) for a prolonged period. Spread happens when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, and droplets from their mouth or nose are launched into the air and land in the mouths or noses of people nearby. The droplets can also be inhaled into the lungs.]</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff and participants are advised to stay home if they are sick or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. 2. Staff will enforce social distancing by regulating entry into the garden during scheduled open garden times. 3. If children are present, staff will reinforce that parents/guardians keep their children close to them and prevent them from interacting with other children; remaining six feet apart from other families. 4. Increased signage with social distancing measures (English/Spanish guidance has been created by D.U.G. that we can use/pull from).
<p>Improve hand and surface hygiene and sanitation throughout the gardens; tools, locks, gates, etc.</p>	<p>The CDC states that, based on what is currently known about the virus and about similar coronaviruses that cause SARS and MERS, spread from person-to-person happens most frequently among close contacts (within about 6 feet). This type of transmission occurs via respiratory droplets, but disease transmission via infectious aerosols is currently uncertain. Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 to persons from surfaces contaminated with the virus has not been documented. Transmission of coronavirus generally occurs more commonly</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participants are required to bring and wear their own mask, bandana, scarf or some kind of face covering while participating in the garden (children < 2 years of age are not required to wear a protective face covering) 2. Gloves (preferably participants' own gloves) will be required of all participants while in the gardens. 3. Gates and locks will be disinfected, either with disinfecting wipes or soap and warm water, at the beginning and at the end of open garden times.

	<p>through respiratory droplets than through fomites. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Regular cleaning of all surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings.</p>	<p>4. Staff will wipe and disinfect gardening tools before and after use if participant is utilizing community tools. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own tools, if able to, and to only share with their immediate family members.</p> <p>5. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own bags on harvest days to eliminate community transmission concerns.</p> <p>*Those who arrive without some kind of face covering will be asked to leave and return with face covering*</p>
<p>Manage how food is handled at the garden to minimize human to human contact during the handling of produce.</p>	<p>CDC states that there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with food. However, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. CDC recommends: 1) putting distance between yourself and other people; and 2) remembering that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide and display guidance on thoroughly washing the produce that participants will be taking home before consumption. 2. Food transportation sources (unused plastic bags or re-used disinfected boxes) in order to safely transport produce back to the WIC clinic or food pantry.

WIC Clinic Contact Information per garden location:

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