

# COVID-19

P-Patch TIPS are reference documents that address topics related to the development and ongoing management of P-Patch Community Gardens.

TIP

PP513

3/24/21

P-Patch Community Gardens continue to have an important impact on our kitchen tables, provide much needed exercise, fresh air, and peace. During this time of public health crisis, we want all gardeners to have the information and resources they need to stay safe and healthy.

We continue to follow guidance from our partners at Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC), Washington State Department of Health (DOH), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). We all have an important role to play in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Please follow the guidelines below in P-Patch Community Gardens. **These rules apply to all community members in P-Patch gardens, regardless of vaccination status.**

**WE'RE PROTECTING OUR ATTENDEES FROM COVID-19**

**In response to a Health Officer Order, we:**

- ✓ Ensure sick employees stay home.
- ✓ Wash our hands frequently.
- ✓ Make hand washing and hand sanitizer available.
- ✓ Clean and sanitize our facility.

**Please help in protecting everyone:**

- If you have a cough, fever, or shortness of breath, please go home.
- If you are at high risk for COVID-19, please go home.
- Stay 6 feet away from other attendees (about two arms' length away).
- Wash/sanitize hands often.

Public Health  
Seattle & King County

## Help stop the spread of COVID-19:

- [Wear a well-fitted mask](#) around people from outside of your household.
- Keep six feet away from people outside of your household.
- Stay home while you are sick, or if someone in your home is sick, and avoid close contact with others.
- [Quarantine and get tested at the first sign of illness or if you've been around someone with COVID-19.](#)
- Wash hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer.
- Use your own gloves, tools and water keys if possible.
- Sanitize frequently touched spots such as locks and gates, water spigots, hoses, latches and knobs on sheds with bleach solution.
- Sanitize common tools: Diluted household bleach solutions (replaced daily), alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common [EPA-registered household disinfectants](#) should be effective. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Lightly spray tools after use. Porous and pitted

surfaces, such as wood, will not be sanitized. To sanitize the handles of the tools, soaking them is most effective. Use gloves as your best protection.

**These rules apply to all community members in P-Patch gardens, regardless of vaccination status.**

TIPS should not be used as a substitute for codes, regulations, or rule requirements. Individuals are responsible for compliance with all code, regulatory, and rule requirements, whether or not described in this TIP.

## Gardener Gatherings and Work Parties

- In-person gatherings and work parties can be held as long as [public health guidelines](#) are followed.
- Masks and physical distancing are required.
- Do not share food or beverages.
- The total number of individuals that can safely gather in person is based on ability to maintain physical distance in your garden and the discretion of individuals participating, in consultation with your staff person.

Examples of how to manage a work party:

- Schedule a limited number of gardeners for different shifts
  - Host drop-in hours over an extended period
  - Gather in multiple small groups, spread out throughout garden to work on different projects
- Meet online using video conference application of your choice, social media, or listservs to communicate. If you need help setting up an alternative way to meet, reach out to your staff person.
  - Be mindful of everyone's abilities and access when using online communication, and offer more than one way to connect and share information.

## Support Your Neighbors

- The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance of taking care of each other, especially our most vulnerable community members. Continue to check on your vulnerable neighbors to see if they need support.
- Consider sending out a message asking if individuals need help maintaining their plots if they can't make it to the garden.
- Focus or expand on your garden's Growing for Giving for nearby food banks, meal programs, mutual aid groups, and houseless neighbors. See [Sharing Abundance TIP sheet](#) for more info.

## Online Resources for Community:

- **City of Seattle's [Seattle Together](#) initiative** is designed to celebrate ideas, share resources and events, and connect community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Seattle Together asks community members to amplify stories of good work and resiliency by residents, elevate resources, share best practices, and build relationships as Seattle residents continue to follow the statewide "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order and physical distancing guidance.
- **COVID-19: Resources for Community - Mayor | seattle.gov** <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19>  
This page contains a list of community resources for healthcare, finances, immigration issues, home schooling, and more. Many [food banks](#) are still serving Seattle and the region. Call your pharmacy if you want to know how to get your medicine delivered.
- **Tilth Alliance Garden Hotline:**  
Call at 206-633-0224 (interpretation available).  
Email using the web form at [www.GardenHotline.org](http://www.GardenHotline.org) or send to [help@gardenhotline.org](mailto:help@gardenhotline.org).  
Provide your zip code so they can track contacts by area. The Garden Hotline would love your photos!