



COVID-Related Safety Requirements for Demonstration Gardens

Approval

Approval is required from the County Director prior to resuming activity in demonstration gardens. The County Director's approval will be determined by County and UC ANR standard protocols.

Understand your Risks

Demonstration garden activities are voluntary and all persons should take precautions to prioritize their health and safety. The CDC advises that people 65 years and older or people of all ages who have chronic medical conditions, such as lung disease, asthma, heart conditions, etc., might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. More info: [cdc.gov/highrisk](https://www.cdc.gov/highrisk)

Work in Shifts

Based on CDC guidance, UC ANR requires six feet of distancing between employees, volunteers, and participants/visitors at all times. Work in the garden must be coordinated and staggered between volunteers to allow for required physical distancing.

Volunteers showing symptoms of illness, including: frequent cough, fever, difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell, may not work in-person. In addition, if any household members are showing symptoms of illness or have been in contact with someone that is suspected of having contracted or tested positive for COVID-19, public health guidelines for self-quarantining must be followed prior to returning to the garden.

Tool Use

Personal work gloves must be worn when using any shared tools and equipment. Shared tools and equipment must be sanitized before and after use with disinfecting wipes. If disinfecting wipes are not available, volunteers should bring their own tools. Personal tools should not be shared.

Hygiene

According to the CDC, one of the best ways to prevent illness from COVID-19 is to wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your

nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

UC ANR requires face coverings (cloth or paper masks, cloth bandanas, etc.) be worn when six feet of separation between people cannot be maintained.

Hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol, disinfecting wipes, and disposable gloves will be provided for volunteers as long as a supply is available. Volunteers are responsible for any personal protective equipment that UC does not provide including but not limited to face masks.

Volunteers must wash or sanitize their hands when arriving at the garden before beginning any work, and before leaving the garden. CDC information about protecting yourself and others must be followed at all times. More info: [cdc.gov/protection](https://www.cdc.gov/protection)

Work Breaks

Wash or sanitize hands properly before and after work breaks, before and after eating or drinking, or using the restroom. Food sharing is not recommended.

Public Visitors

UC Master Gardener volunteers and staff must obtain approval from their County Director prior to re-opening a demonstration garden to the public. The County Director's approval will be determined by County mandates and UC ANR.

While physical distancing requirements are in place by UC ANR, measures must be taken to communicate physical distancing expectations to all visitors to the garden. In gardens that open, signage must be posted notifying the public to maintain required physical distance from others while in the garden or wear a mask.

Gardens may remain closed to the public. During closures, all gates, where applicable, are to remain locked while approved garden activities are being

conducted. Signage should be posted notifying the public of the closure.

Harvesting and Deliveries to Food Bank

Harvesting produce from the garden and delivering to food banks requires prior approval from the County Director. Harvesters must follow protocols set by the food bank and local or state Public Health guidelines. Disposable gloves must be worn when harvesting fresh produce. Refrain from touching your face, hair or clothing with the gloves. When harvesting tasks are complete and the delivery is loaded into a vehicle, discard all disposable gloves and wash or sanitize hands before leaving the garden. Replace gloves when you take a break.

Physical distancing must be exercised when delivering to the food bank, wash or sanitize your hands after making a delivery.