

Best Practices

- Medical Professionals/Epidemiologists have made it clear that COVID-19 is not transmitted through garden produce
- Still important to take all precautions
 - Wash hands before harvesting and handling produce.
 - Re-wash hands after using the restroom, eating, smoking, sneezing/coughing, working with animals, and touching anything unsanitary (phone)
 - Wash and sanitize harvest tools, equipment, and surfaces.
 - Do not place harvested produce on the ground
 - Use potable water when rinsing produce.
 - Always wash produce before consumption.



COVID-19 & COMMUNITY GARDENING IN CHICAGO

While getting outside for a touch of nature is important during the COVID-19 crisis, all social contact increases the risk of spreading the disease. **The best way to reduce this risk is to STAY HOME.**

If you do decide to visit your garden, exercise an abundance of caution. **Community gardening is riskier than taking a walk.** Do everything you can to keep yourself and your community safe by following these guidelines:

- **When in doubt, stay home.** Do not come to the garden if you or someone in your home is sick, if you are a member of a vulnerable population, have health conditions, or are a senior.
- **Do not hold group volunteer days,** no matter how small.
- **Avoid using community tools and use your own.** If tools must be shared, be diligent and disinfect handles before and after use.
- **Do not share gloves.** Adults and kids should wear washable gloves while in garden and wash between visits.

- **Visit the garden alone** or with members of your immediate household.
- **Practice social distancing and wear a mask.** Stay at least an arm and a shovel (6 feet) from others and wear a mask.
- **If several people are gardening, come back later.** Leadership teams should consider limiting the garden to 1-3 people at a time and offering sign-up times for gardening.
- **Wash hands regularly.** Use soap, or hand sanitizer if there is no water available. Bring your own, supplies are limited.
- **Be aware of high-touch surfaces.** If you must touch, disinfect gate handles, water spigots, shed doors, etc., both before and after use.
- **Remove any and all personal items and trash** you bring to the garden.
- **Thoroughly wash all produce** you harvest from the garden.
- **For collective duties, make an online task list.** Work done individually or in very small groups can still be shared by the community!
- **Post signage with these guidelines and rules in public.** Remember, our first responsibility is to keep each other safe.



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» Chicago Community Gardeners Association

Updated April 14, 2020. COVID-19 is a rapidly changing situation. This information is subject to change at a moment's notice!