

Reopening Protocol for Community Gardens

Recent updates

7/9/20: Updated to require employers to provide information to employees regarding employee sick leave and other employee benefits.

6/30/20: Clusters of positive cases (defined 3 or more cases in 14 days) must be reported to the Department of Public Health

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Public Health) is calling on the public, all business owners and community organizations to support the reopening of businesses and public spaces. Through our collective Safer at Home efforts, we have successfully slowed the number of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, allowing for a phased reopening of many aspects of regular life.

To aid in this transition, Public Health asks all community gardens operators to take appropriate steps to plan for reopening, in alignment with the Recovery Plan. The following issues are critical and must be addressed to ensure that workers and players reduce the risk of spread at community gardens:

- (1) Protecting and supporting employee and customer health
- (2) Ensuring appropriate physical distancing
- (3) Ensuring proper infection control
- (4) Communicating with the public
- (5) Ensuring equitable access to services

These critical areas have been incorporated into the checklist below and must be implemented as required community garden reopening protocols.

All Community Gardens must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Community Garden name: _____

Facility Address: _____

A. RECOMMENDED RESTRICTIONS

- ☐ Face coverings are required at all times.
- ☐ Physical distancing of six (6) feet is required at all times.
- ☐ Volunteer events, other events, and classes are not allowed.
- ☐ Group gatherings are not allowed.
- ☐ The number of participants in the garden at one time shall not cause any crowding and shall maintain 6 feet of distance between participants.
- ☐ Participants bring hand sanitizer or sanitizing wipes, or a Ziplock bag with soapy water and a washcloth and wash hands before and after going to the garden.

- ☐ Gloves are required while conducting gardening, including while handling tools and equipment.
- ☐ Participants are required to remove all personal items and trash before leaving the garden.
- ☐ Doors, entrances, and/or gates remain open during normal operational hours.

If Employees or Staff are present on site:

- ☐ All employees have been told not to come to work if sick, or if they are exposed to a person who has COVID-19. Employees understand to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation and quarantine, if applicable. Workplace leave policies have been reviewed and modified to ensure that employees are not penalized when they stay home due to illness.
 - ☐ Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID19, including employee's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-62-20](#).
- ☐ Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) [isolate themselves at home](#) and require the immediate [self-quarantine](#) of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The employer's plan should consider a protocol for all quarantined employees to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures. See the public health guidance on [responding to COVID-19 in the workplace](#).
- ☐ Symptom checks are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or fever and any other symptoms the employee may be experiencing. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should be done at the worksite if feasible.
- ☐ In the event that 3 or more cases are identified within the workplace within a span of 14 days the employer should report this cluster to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821. If a cluster is identified at a worksite, the Department of Public Health will initiate a cluster response which includes providing infection control guidance and recommendations, technical support and site-specific control measures. A public health case manager will be assigned to the cluster investigation to help guide the facility response.
- ☐ All employees who have contact with the public or other employees during their shift (s) are offered, at no cost, a cloth face covering. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees need not wear a cloth face covering when the employee is alone in a private office or a walled cubicle.
- ☐ Employees are instructed to wash their face coverings daily.
- ☐ Employees have been reminded to adhere to personal prevention actions including:
 - ☐ Stay home when you are sick. Stay home for at least 3 days (72 hours) after recovery, which means your fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing

medications and there is improvement in your respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared.

- ☐ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands before meals, after using the restroom and after coughing and sneezing.
- ☐ Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (not your hands).
- ☐ Do not touch your mouth, eyes, nose with unwashed hands.
- ☐ Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- ☐ Avoid sharing items such as phones or other devices. If devices must be shared be sure to wipe them down with a disinfectant wipe before and after sharing.
- ☐ Constantly observe your work distances in relation to other staff. Always maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from others unless specific work assignments require less distancing and wear a face cloth covering when working near or with others.
- ☐ Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, machines, shared devices, and doorknobs. This should be done hourly during business hours.
- ☐ Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees.

B. MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS

- ☐ Group gatherings are prohibited, and benches and tables are removed or condoned off because they can't be used
- ☐ Commonly used items are sanitized regularly.
- ☐ Commonly used equipment is sanitized before and after each use.
- ☐ Participants bring their own tools as much as possible to avoid using community tools.
- ☐ Water fountains are available to fill water bottles only.

C. MONITORING PROTOCOLS

- ☐ Instructional and informational signage must be posted throughout the facility regarding infection control, physical distancing, and the use of face coverings.
- ☐ Facility Operator will conduct periodic visits daily to monitor that gardeners are complying with the restrictions.
- ☐ Gardeners will be asked to leave if not complying with these restrictions.

Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate pages,
which the business should attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any
questions or comments about this protocol:

Community

Garden

Contact Name:

Phone number:

Date Last

Revised: