



Garden Operating Protocols for Plot Holders: Covid-19

This season's Covid-19 pandemic is a great reminder of the importance of growing your own food. For this reason, BTLT was able to have the TSCG designated an essential business by the State of Maine. Please take the following precautions while in the garden to minimize the possibility of spreading the disease.

- Keep at least 6ft between yourself and other gardeners. Neighboring plot holders may not work their plots at the same time. If you arrive and your plot neighbor is working, return at another time. If they are finishing up shortly, consider taking this time to do some of the 6hr of community service required of plot holders while you wait. Early mornings, after 5pm, and weekends are the busiest times in the garden. Consider working on your plot outside of these time blocks to avoid overcrowding.
- Gardeners must bring their own tools to work in their plots. If you are unable to bring your own tools please speak with the garden coordinator about making other arrangements.
- Bring only clean tools into the garden. Clean with biodegradable soap and water. This will decrease the risk of spreading plant diseases and soil pests. Once the water system has been turned on, biodegradable soap will be made available to you.
- During workdays Common Good Garden volunteers can use TSCG tools while working in CGG areas. There are additional guidelines and sanitation steps that will be addressed at every work day. These precautions can be viewed here (will insert link to Dev's doc).
- Weed whacking, lawn mowing and compost volunteers will follow the same sanitation protocols as CGG volunteers (insert Dev's Doc).
- Do not enter the garden shed unless you have specific permission to do so.

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- All communal items must be sprayed with sanitizer **before and after** use. This includes all parts of water hydrants (hoses, handles, etc), gate/door handles, and wheelbarrows. Bottles of sanitizer will be located at the gates and next to water hydrants.
- When accessing the water system, keep 6 feet between yourself and others. Be in good communication with other plot holders and take turns at the hydrants.
- Do not visit the garden if you are sick, wait 14 days until after symptoms have abated to return to the garden. Please do not visit the garden if you have been in close contact with someone who is ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands, particularly when you are working around food. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with 70% alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Log your volunteer hours online, through the [website](#). This removes the need for pen and paper recording which results in germ spread. If you require assistance with this process email garden@btlr.org.
- Please follow any updated CDC and government guidelines as more information becomes available.

If a guideline is not working well, or you notice a covid-19 related safety concern in the Garden, please email garden@btlr.org.

While every effort is being taken to ensure the safety of TSCG ploholders and volunteers, BTLT cannot guarantee the safety of garden participants. By working in the garden as either a plot holder or volunteer you are indicating that you accept these risks.