

June 10, 2020

Subject: Master Gardener Activities Safety Guidelines

To: Master Gardeners and Interns of King County,

The following message is from Jennifer Marquis at WSU. She is the statewide MG Program Leader.

Dear WSU Master Gardener Program Coordinators and Volunteers,

Please accept a heart-felt thank you from WSU Extension leadership. The creativity and innovation program coordinators and volunteers have shown in an effort to remain mission driven in a safe way inspires all of us. Virtual workshops and classes have seen a significant increase in attendance, virtual plant clinics are requiring us to develop new ways of delivering this core component of our program and the how to video clips being created at the county and state level will provide us with a library of teaching tools to use well into the future. I am proud to be part of such a professional, dedicated and engaged group of volunteers. Thank you for your contributions to this impactful program!

I'd also like to thank you for your patience as WSU Extension navigates the various layers of complexity that comes with operating multiple programs and locations across the state and the changing guidance from Governor Inslee. Public safety and the health and well-being of WSU employees and volunteers is our number one priority. Secondly, as representatives of WSU, we must lead by example and do our part to limit the transmission of Covid-19. We have a responsibility to follow the phased [Safe Start](#) plan outlined by Governor Inslee.

More than half of the counties in our state are in phase two and seven have been approved to move to phase 3. Governor Inslee releases updated guidance on how to open specific industries nearly every day. The guidance requires an approved plan where employees are trained on safety measures. WSU Extension is working on a checklist for counties and programs to use to develop plans and is crafting an overall plan for WSU Extension. The checklist will help counties and programs ensure compliance with local health jurisdictions.

Previous messaging allowed for WSU Master Gardener volunteers to begin participating in local farmers' markets and outdoor clinics in phase 2. However, the new guidance provided by Governor Inslee's office requires an approved plan for re-opening operations, and hence WSU Extension must rescind permission to participate in local farmers' markets and outdoor clinics until a

plan is approved. Rest assured, we are working on that plan and once one is approved you will know. It is extremely important that we do not rush re-opening operations. Our priority is personal health and safety.

In the meantime, please continue limited maintenance in demonstration gardens. For clarifying guidance on limited maintenance in demonstration gardens, see [Safety Guidelines for Demonstration Garden Maintenance](#). Previous guidance on plant sales to include up to 10 volunteers working in shifts following all non-pharmaceutical interventions is still accurate. And, please continue offering all of the virtual clinics and gardening series in your local counties, as possible. I am always inspired by the innovation and creativity, but perhaps most importantly, the positivity I witness when I engage with volunteers across the state.

Kind Regards,

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This email is being sent by the Master Gardener Foundation of King County on behalf the the [WSU Extension Master Gardener Program in King County](#).
