Factors for garden groups to consider when reopening to the public:

- **Garden group support and communication**: Does the garden group support the decision? How will the group continue to communicate and keep in touch? Will the garden group reevaluate the decision to reopen after a specific amount of time?
- **Group capacity**: How many members does the garden have, and what is their availability to ensure that all current COVID-19 policies can be met?
- **Open hours**: Groups should consider what public open hours will be, how will they be determined, and how the garden group will identify members to be present at the garden during open hours.
- **Garden size**: How large or small is the garden? Does the garden group have confidence that social distancing can be adhered to within the garden during public access?
- **Expected garden usage**: How do members of the public typically use the garden, and how might that change in the current environment?
- **Maximum occupancy:** Is the garden group establishing a maximum occupancy for the number of individuals inside the garden at any one time? How will that be communicated? Currently, total occupancy may not exceed 35 people at one time; garden groups may choose a lower limit among themselves and large gardens can seek an exemption.
- **Cleaning**: Is the garden group able to regularly disinfect shared tools, equipment, and surfaces, including portable toilets? Will hand sanitizer or hand washing be available?
- **Community composting**: If the garden group has an active composting operation, will you accept food scraps from neighbors? Can you do this safely? How is this being communicated? How will the group respond if the amount of food scraps overwhelms the group? The COVID-19 Composting Safety Guide offers guidelines and resources.
- **Signage**: What kind of signage should be prepared and hung to support safe public access to the garden? Will certain garden areas remain open to members only?
- **Garden clean-up**: What debris and other obstructions must be cleared up or stored away by the garden group before reopening to ensure that the garden is safe for visitors?
- **Illness and high-risk populations**: Does the garden group have members who are at high risk, or do members have friends and family that they will come into contact with who are at high risk? How will garden members who become ill be advised to refrain from gardening while sick?
- **Garden Membership**: Garden groups can continue to accept new members, at their discretion, if they believe that they can orient new members in accordance with all applicable requirements.
- **Review Current COVID-19 Information**: Gardeners should review current information and guidelines on COVID-19 on the CDC and DOHMH webpage, especially with regard to populations at risk.
- **Trash removal**: What is the garden group's plan to safely remove trash from the site?
- **Bylaws**: Are your group's bylaws and governance documents able to guide decision making, and even disagreements, on the many topics that are likely to arise in the coming months? GreenThumb can help your group update them if needed.

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