



## **Guidance for Nurseries and Garden Center Operators to Slow the Spread of COVID-19 Virus**

With COVID-19 spreading across the state and nation, Governor Pete Ricketts has issued guidelines to slow the spread of the virus. Under these guidelines, Nebraskans need to implement improved personal health practices to slow the spread of the virus. These practices include keeping at least six feet between each person, coughing and/or sneezing into our elbows, washing our hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds, and refraining from touching our face, nose, and eyes. In addition, public gatherings should be limited to no more than 10 people.

Governor Ricketts has issued a Directed Health Measures (DHM) for all Nebraska counties that further restrict activities. You can read more about those restrictions online at [www.governor.nebraska.gov](http://www.governor.nebraska.gov).

Nursery and garden centers should institute changes to slow the spread of COVID-19.

It is important that nurseries and garden centers institute changes to slow the spread of COVID-19 amongst their patrons. NDA recommends that all nursery and garden centers operators adhere to the following guidance:

### **All nurseries and garden centers should first consult with their local health department to ensure they are able to meet all local health department guidelines.**

- Increase the footprint of the nursery or garden center to allow shoppers to **maintain a healthy physical distance** of at least 6 feet between each other. This may include limiting the amount of shoppers at a time.
- Add **chalk/tape lines** to keep shoppers at least 6 feet apart. Directional arrows can also be utilized to direct patron flow through the market.
- Assign **additional staff on the grounds** to regulate customer flow and ensure physical distancing.
- Create ample spacing of products to reduce congestion.
- **Sanitize work stations and checkout stands regularly**, primarily by wiping down tables, terminals, cash boxes, etc.
- Make sure that staff stay home if they are sick.
- Provide additional hand sanitizer.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recommends that people should wear cloth face masks when out in public. (Don't wear N95 respirator masks or surgical masks as those should be reserved for health care workers who are facing a shortage of protective equipment.)
- Consider using a credit-card reader when possible, to avoid the exchange of cash.

NDA recommends all nursery and garden center patrons adhere to the following guidelines:

- Determine if it is necessary to visit the nursery or garden center, or if it could wait.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently recommends that people should wear cloth face masks when out in public. (Don't wear N95 respirator masks or surgical masks as those should be reserved for health care workers who are facing a shortage of protective equipment.)
- Use hand sanitizer and wash your hands with soap and water frequently.
- If you choose to shop, go by yourself. Keep your distance between customers, in line, etc.
- Shop with your eyes. Don't touch everything. Just touch what you plan to purchase.
- Bring a list of items you would like to purchase so you can get in, quickly get what you need, and get out again.