

May 18, 2020

Dear Master Gardener Volunteers and Friends:

I am sure that everyone was excited when on Thursday Governor Kate Brown shared good news: most counties in Oregon were approved for reopening under Phase 1 starting Friday, May 15th. There is now a little “light at the end of the tunnel” to which we can all look forward.

I am writing to remind you, though, that we are still waiting for direction and guidance concerning Extension volunteer programs. The University is still working with the Governor’s office to clarify when and how we may again come together for face-to-face events, activities and instruction. Specifically in the Master Gardener Program, we are developing guidance (which will be subject to administrative review) for how we can begin work in Master Gardener demonstration and community gardens.

The state’s guidance of 25 or less for events does not apply Master Gardener classes or trainings. We are still under a moratorium on face-to-face educational classes, trainings, or events until at least June 13th, unless the University, with guidance and direction from the Governor, says otherwise. Currently, the University is advising that we continue remote work (including meetings), whenever possible. Extension offices remain closed to the general public, which further limits our ability to return to normal operations. As restrictions are lifted on University classes, events, and meetings, or as we receive permission to begin work in Master Gardener-tended gardens, we will communicate the updated guidance.

Until then continue all the great work you are doing in virtual plant clinics, Ask an Expert, and remote webinar offerings. Also, continue to stay safe and be well!!

Sincerely,

Gail Langellotto
Statewide Extension Master Gardener Program Coordinator
Oregon State University