This documents the Covid policies before and after May 1, 2021. Please note that in #1 of the May 1, 2021 policy the chapters are free to set stricter policies for their activities. This means that chapters cannot be less strict than the CDC but can be more. If a chapter wishes to do so, they may continue to follow the guidelines set by NPSOT prior to May 1.

It is incumbent on the chapter boards to address this situation and make their chapters members aware of the policy the chapter will follow at any given time.

**COVID-19 Policies as of May 1, 2021**

*as approved by the State Board*

1. Chapters must follow current CDC guidelines or set their own stricter policies for meetings, demo garden work, plant sales, field trips or any NPSOT activity.

2. Chapters are responsible for knowing and following the current CDC guidelines and any special applications to their communities by local health departments and/or government.

3. CDC links to consult on a regular basis:


COVID-19 Policies

Before May 1, 2021

**In-Person Meetings**

1. Indoors, in-person meetings are not allowed.

2. Outdoors, in-person meetings are allowed if these safety requirements are followed: use of hand sanitizer, face masks, and appropriate physical distancing.

3. Virtual meetings are encouraged. Please send information on virtual meetings/events held for the NPSOT or other organizations that support our mission, would be of interest to our members, are free and open to the public and can be made available to the public to: events@npsot.org. These events are listed on our npsot.org website, menu item: Resources, drop to: Virtual event calendar. There is a button on the page to sign up to receive an email every Monday morning listing our upcoming virtual events.

**Plant Sales**

1. Chapters will follow all local, municipal, county, state and national recommendations, directives and laws that apply to public gatherings for minimizing the risk of viral transmission.

2. Plant sales will be held outdoors. Shade structures are acceptable.

3. Patrons will be reminded to maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distancing from volunteers and each other, and will be encouraged to wear masks. This applies to the plant display area, checkout/payment lines, vehicle loading zones and surrounding areas including parking lots, rest rooms, etc.

4. Ordering/Pickup time slots will be arranged so volunteers can comply with distancing. Volunteers loading plants into vehicles will take particular care to maintain a minimum six feet of physical distancing from patrons and vehicle occupants.

5. Volunteers must feel well and have no fever or cough. Volunteers will wear masks at all times and will maintain a minimum of six feet of physical distancing from patrons and each other.

6. No more than 10 volunteers will be present/on duty at a time.

   We realize that chapters are coming up with non-traditional ways of holding plant sales - for example, posting plants and selling online, then delivering plants to patron’s driveway entrance. These options are fine as long as they conform with protective measures listed above.
Demonstration Garden Maintenance

With proper precautions, demonstration garden maintenance can be conducted while protecting the safety of our volunteers. The following procedures must be followed at each site when conducting maintenance. This policy addresses only demonstration garden maintenance and not any other in-person activities.

1. Chapters will follow all local, municipal, county, state and national recommendations, directives and laws that apply to public gatherings for minimizing the risk of viral transmission.

2. Volunteers will be asked if they have had any symptoms within the last week. Volunteers must feel well and have no fever or cough. If they have had any recent symptoms or do not feel well on the day of work, they cannot participate.

3. All volunteers must bring their own tools, drinks, face masks, hand sanitizer and other materials.

4. All volunteers should maintain a minimum of six foot spacing and wear face masks at all times. If the spacing requirement cannot be met for some activities, then these activities should be managed to minimize the time and distance of close contact.

5. Managers will not send large broadcast emails requesting volunteer help but will instead be selective in recruiting.

Chapters may devise different ways of organizing work; as long as it conforms with protective measures listed above, it is allowed.

A few ideas for organizing work:

- Unsupervised schedule where volunteers come at will, on their own time schedule.
- Managers keep a spreadsheet and let people sign up for different day and time slots, perhaps assigning specific tasks or not.
- Specific days of work with time schedules to keep the numbers of volunteers reasonable to avoid crowding.