

Virtual Gathering

Garden Care and Management During Covid-19



Housekeeping

- Recording will be shared in follow up email

Archive with additional resources will be posted on our forum

www.sgsonetwork.org/forum and our www.sgsonetwork.org/covid page

- Copy of presentation in handouts
- “Raise your hand” to be invited to join the dialogue
- Ask Questions in control panel

Happy Earth Day 1970-2020



The Earth Laughs in Flowers

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson



**SGSO
NETWORK**
School Garden Support Organization Network
A Learning Community of School Garden Support Professionals

Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities

Webinars

In-Person Gatherings

Digital Commons

SGSO Leaders Sharing
Best Practices

SGSOs Unite
Pre-Conference
Networking

Leadership
Institute

Leadership
Summit - National
Conference

Best Practice Resources

Forum

What is the SGSO Network?

www.sgsonetwork.org

Goal: Creating dialogue among school garden support organizations.

Supporting School Gardens during Covid-19 school closures and social distancing? [Browse & contribute to topics tagged Covid-19, this will help keep our forum organized.](#) Please consider contributing to Covid-19 related resources in the following discussion:

- [Distance Teaching / Learning \(During COVID-19\)](#): Ways we continue to provide instruction to students
- [Garden Care & Management \(During COVID-19\)](#): Ways we are caring for and harvesting from school gardens
- [Maintaining Fiscal Stability of your SGSO \(During COVID-19\)](#): Ways organizations are dealing with budgets, payroll and potential loss of revenue
- [Running your SGSO / Supporting Your Staff \(During COVID-19\)](#): Tips and ideas for managing your SGSO, such as: scheduling staff, professional development opportunities, running evaluations, HR implications, etc.
- [Related Topics & Resources – Not Specifically Tied to School Gardens \(During COVID-19\)](#): A space to post topics related, but not specific to school gardens, that do not fall into our COVID-19 Forum topic areas mentioned above.

Did you know? You can set up your user profile to customize email delivery settings of forum discussions. [View tips on how to use our online forum](#)

[Edit welcome message](#) [Clear welcome message](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>		★ Garden Care and Management During COVID19	COVID-19 creating-and-maintaining-garden-sites program-management	 + 12 others
		By Judith Fallows - 20 posts - 234 views - updated Apr 20		
<input type="checkbox"/>		★ Distance Teaching/Learning (During COVID-19)	COVID-19 curricula-and-instructional-resources program-management	  + 13 others
		By tristana.pirkl - 18 posts - 214 views - updated Apr 17		
<input type="checkbox"/>		★ Related Topics & Resources - not specifically related to School Gardens (During Covid-19) (1)	announcements-miscellaneous COVID-19	
		By School Garden Support Organization Network - 2 posts - 25 views - updated Apr 13		
<input type="checkbox"/>		★ Running your SGSO / Supporting Your Staff (During Covid-19)	COVID-19 program-management training-garden-educators	
		By School Garden Support Organization Network - 2 posts - 50 views - updated Apr 5		
<input type="checkbox"/>		★ Maintaining Fiscal Stability of your SGSO (During Covid-19)	COVID-19 funding-budgeting program-management	
		By School Garden Support Organization Network - 1 post - 19 views - updated Apr 5		

www.sgsonetwork.org/forum



How to Join and Use the School Garden Support Organization Forum

Organization Forum

The SGSO Forum is a space for School Garden Support professionals to share questions, challenges, ideas, and resources with one another. This forum is open to the public to view. To use the forum:

- You'll need a Google account
- Visit *the forum* and click *New Topic* or *Apply To Join This Group*, and a moderator will add you shortly.
- Once signed in you can either click *New Topic* or find an existing relevant Topic post and add your perspective or resource to the discussion.

Online forums can be confusing. We hope the basic tips below will help provide some clarity on using our forum.

For more help visit [Google Groups Help Page](#)

VISIT THE SCHOOL GARDEN SUPPORT ORGANIZATION ONLINE FORUM



Searching and Posting

We have created the following Topic categories (tags) to help direct conversations and provide structure to the forum. You can browse and post within these Topics. You can also use the search box on the top of the page. Before posting new Topics please take a quick look to see if there is already a similar Topic discussion started and considering replying to the existing Topic if it makes sense. This will help to

www.sgsonetwork.org/forum

School Garden Support Organization COVID-19 Virtual Gathering Topics

- ★ Distance Teaching/Learning Archived at www.sgsonetwork.org/covid
- ★ Garden Care & Management (Today)
- ★ SGSOs Unite! Virtually - Friday 4/24 11am PST
- ★ Maintaining Fiscal Stability for your SGSO - Wednesday 4/29 11am PST
- ★ Running Your SGSO / Supporting Your Staff - Wednesday 5/6 11am PST

Can you share on an upcoming topic? network@sgsonetwork.org

COVID-19 Resources

Resources to support school gardens during school closures



Distance Teaching Resources

Garden-Based Learning Distance Teaching Resources

A curated list. Sort list by audience and resource type.

Submit Your Distance Teaching Resources

If you have a resource that is relevant and open for others to share with their student/community audience please consider adding to our list via the link above.



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Online Forum

Join the Discussion on our **Online Forum**

Search for **Topics Tagged COVID-19**



Garden Care and Use

View List of Resources Related to School Garden Access, Care, Harvest/Distribution During COVID-19

Submit a Resource Related to School Garden Access, Care, Harvest/Distribution During COVID-19

sgsonetwork.org/covid

Agenda

Overview

Mini Presentations

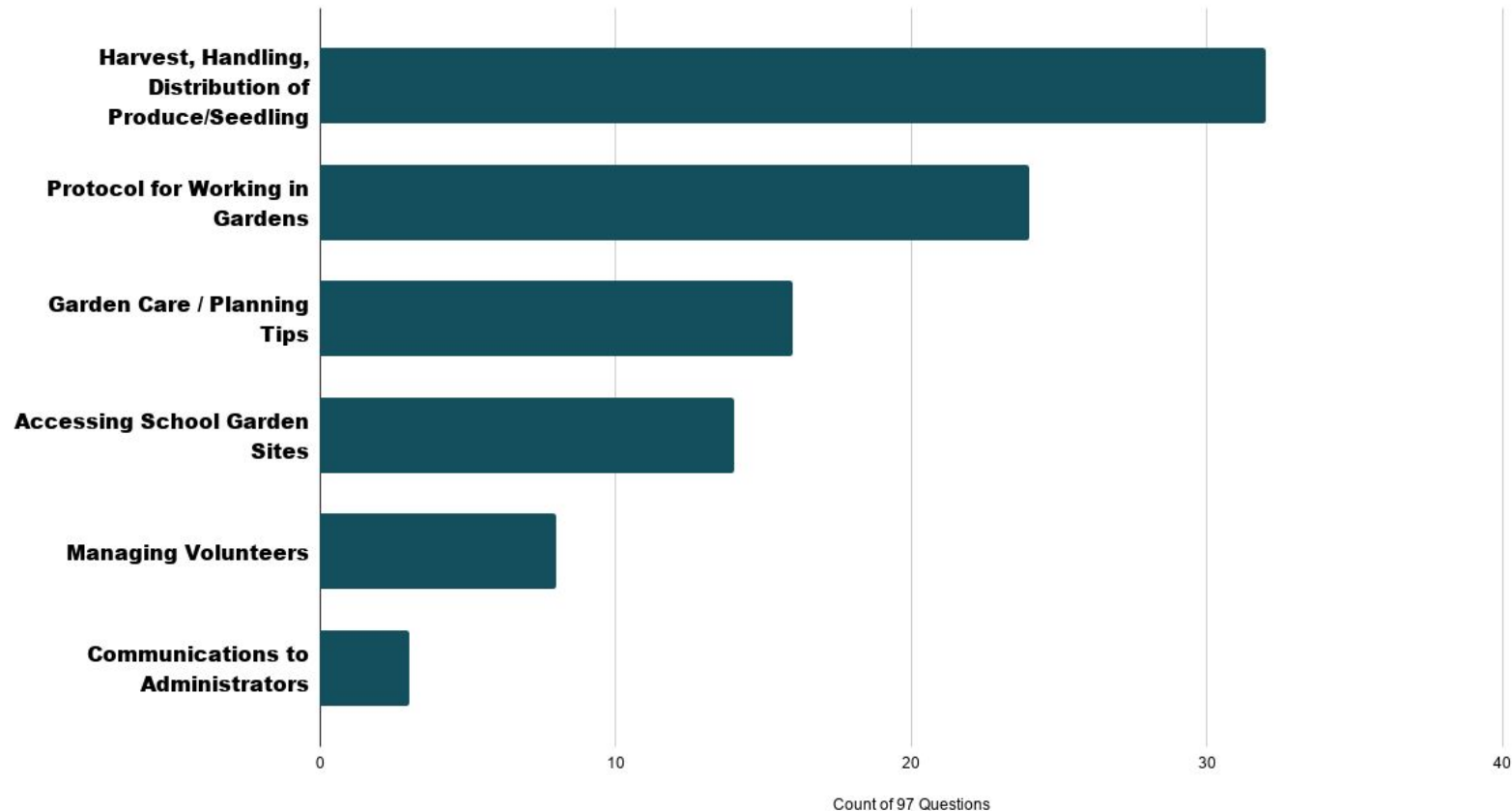
Moses Thompson - Tucson Unified School District / U of A Community & School Garden Program

Patrick Littleton - Pajaro Valley Unified School District / Extended Learning & Food Services

Laura Plaut & Margo Heffron - Common Threads

Discussions

Count of School Garden Care (During COVID) Virtual Gathering Registrant Questions



POLL

Have you been able to **access the gardens** that you work with?

- Yes we have been able to visit/tend all the sites that we have capacity to visit
- Some Yes, but there are some school sites where the gardens are not accessible yet
- None, we can not access any garden sites yet

POLL

What statement best describes your situation related to **garden planning**:

- We are crop planning/planting as we have in past years
- We have a modified plan
- We still don't know
- We will not be planting this spring/early summer (ie. leave beds empty, cover cropping or mulching)

Moses Thompson

Associate Director, UA Community
and School Garden Program,
Tucson Unified School District
<https://schoolgardens.arizona.edu/>



www.facebook.com/UASchoolGardens



TUSD COVID19 School Garden Response

- Protocol established: consultation with Food Services, site principals, CDC guidelines, and AZDHS best practices
- School garden access and operation differs significantly site to site
- Produce distributions are largely grass-roots school efforts following best practices
- Engaging with TUSD leadership bolstered support/visibility

Sample protocol

- School gardeners will operate in are outdoor spaces at schools and not enter classrooms, offices, computer labs, bathrooms, etc.
- Harvesters will consist of groups less than ten (10) people
- Participants will sign in and a participant log will be maintained
- A distance of 6 feet between harvesters will be maintained
- Participants will be briefed on CDC Food Safety Guidelines:
<https://www.cdc.gov/foodsafety/keep-food-safe.html>
- Produce harvesting and handling will happen according to Arizona Department of Health Services best practices:
<https://www.azdhs.gov/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/food-safety-environmental-services/index.php#school-garden-program-home>
- In addition to AZDHS best practices, harvesters will wear gloves
- Produce will be distributed in TUSD Food Service provided produce bags
- Tools and surfaces will be treated with 70% alcohol before and after harvest



POLL

Does your garden site(s) follow any policy or protocol related to **safe garden care visits**?

- Yes, we have protocols in place
- We are working on it / communicating with decision makers
- No we don't foresee being able to visit/tend garden site(s)

POLL

Does your garden site(s) follow any policy or protocol related to **safe produce harvesting or distribution, and/or seedling distribution**?

- Yes, we have protocols in place
- We are working on it / communicating with decision makers
- No we don't foresee being able to harvest or distribute produce or seedlings

Patrick Littleton

Garden and Nutrition Educator

fitness4lifepvusd.weebly.com

Pajaro Valley Unified School District
Watsonville, CA



 @fitness4lifepvusd

 [YouTube](#)

 facebook.com/Fitness4LifePajaroValley

PVUSD Garden Maint. Strategies

-Only district staff allowed on campus at specific times when admin are present during weekly resource distribution for students and families.

-Summer crop planning involves late season, single harvest crops that have a flexible harvest window. (flour and popping corn, winter squash, dry beans, potatoes, melons, gourds, etc.)

- All gardens have drip irrigation and timers

- Site specific strategies unique to each garden



Sustaining, distantly



- Fitness 4 Life staff are able to get into the gardens for maintenance, staff are wearing face masks/covering, gloves, 1-2 people.
- Staff are also creating online content for students to do at home - via social media and linking content for teachers weekly lesson plans.
- Currently planning a summer distance learning garden component for students to conduct seed/plant observations at home.
- Staff PD opportunities: [ServSafe Food Handler Certification](#) (Free until 4/30) [servesafe.com](https://www.servesafe.com)

Harvest, Handling, Distribution Examples

“Raise your hand” if you’d like to share

Quina Weber-Shirk - North Carolina Cooperative Extension Guilford County

Sharing seeds and starts

Rebekka Henriksen - Zoller School Garden, Schenectady, NY

Sharing seed starts

Laura Plaut and Margo Heffron


Common Threads
Bellingham, WA

commonthreadsfarm.org




 facebook.com/CommonThreadsFarm

 [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/CommonThreadsFarm)

 @commonthreadsfarm

 @ctfgrown

 @commonthreadswa

Common Threads Overview

- 24 school gardens across 5 districts
- Everything looks different district to district
- We've gotten some guidance from both a state and county level
- AmeriCorps members = Boots on the ground for garden planning, safety, and volunteer coordination.
- WA State Farm to School, school garden community of practice

Harvest, Handling, and Distribution

“You guys wrote the book on that” - Health Department Contact

[Garden to Cafeteria Toolkit](#)



Communication with Administrators

Here are the resources that our WSDA Farm to School Office pulled together:

[OSPI Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Guidance & Resources:](#)

“Districts will not be prevented from using their facilities to provide child care, for individual staff to remotely lead or develop content for professional learning or staff meetings, to hold Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings, to provide direct services to individual students, ***or for other activities deemed essential and necessary by the district administration.***”

[Governor’s Order on Statewide K-12 Closures:](#)

“Nothing in this order shall be construed as precluding a public school district, charter school, or private school from using their school facilities to provide childcare, ***nutrition programs***, and other ***social services*** necessary to preserve and ***maintain life, health, property or the public peace***”

Governor's Stay at Home Order:

“Essential activities permitted under this Proclamation are limited to the following:

§ 1) Obtaining necessary supplies and services for family or household members and pets, ***such as groceries, food and supplies*** for household consumption

§ ***4) Engaging in outdoor exercise activities***...but only if appropriate social distancing practices are used”

Washington State COVID-19 Response: Essential Businesses

Food and agriculture: Essential Workforce

§ Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies, and other retail that sells food and beverage products, including but not limited to...***Farmers' markets, Food banks, Farm and produce stands***”

§ “Farmworkers and support service workers to ***include those who field crops***”

Other community-based government operations and essential functions: Essential Workforce

§ “Workers supporting public and private childcare establishments, licensed pre-K establishments, K- 12 schools, colleges, and universities ***for purposes of distance learning, or the provision of school meals...***”

And here's what we've heard from our State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI):

*Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has been getting **questions regarding what is allowed in terms of school gardening activities during the COVID-19 school closures and the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders. Since Washington is a local control state, OSPI leaves the decision about what kinds of school gardening activities may continue at this time to school districts.** Activities that do not align with the governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders should cease to continue while those orders are in effect, but this does not mean that all school gardening activity must come to a halt. Activities that should not take place during the Stay Home, Stay Healthy orders includes:*

*Any onsite educational, recreational or other K-12 activities that are not associated with onsite childcare or meal service. **If district leadership determines it to be appropriate, some school gardening activities may continue, such as watering and general maintenance of school gardens by designated staff. If school gardens are actively producing food to support the meal programs being operated through the school district, that may be appropriate use of school gardens at this time if approved by district leadership. If your district decides to continue school garden operations, we encourage you to reach out to your local health department for guidance on health and safety practices that should be in place for those activities. You can also view the Washington State Department of Health COVID-19 [guidance for schools](#).***

*Please note that **this guidance is not a directive of the governor or the state superintendent. This guidance is based on previous guidance already provided by the governor and state superintendent regarding appropriate use of school facilities during this time.***

Here's (unofficially) what we've heard from our County Health Department:

School property is public property, right? Gardens are outside, not inside the buildings, right? I don't see how this could possibly be an issue. Grocery stores are essential businesses = farmers markets = gardens. Right?

(Text from our health dept. liaison on April 16)

And here's how one of our partner districts chose to communicate with principals (after 4 weeks of a lot of parent and Common Threads Advocacy!)

Mount Baker School District Elementary Garden Access *(written from Curriculum Director to School Principals)*

1. *Garden maintenance will be directed and supported by Common Threads, School buildings will not be accessed and there is no expectation of school staff support (including janitorial support).*
2. *Common Threads will coordinate the volunteers and follow best practice protocols for sanitizing and social distancing.*
3. *Communication with volunteers will be managed by Common Threads.*

How are we actually accessing the gardens?

Social Distancing Practices

Workplace Protocol for Employees

Best Practices during Covid-19

- Signage
- Handwashing
- Masks
- Alcohol > Bleach

Welcome to the Garden!

- Please stay home if you or a household member are sick.
- Please wear a mask and bring your own gloves and hand drying towel.
- Prop open all gates/doors first thing, to eliminate the need to touch them during your stay.
- One person at a time in the shed.
- Wash your hands before and after gardening, after blowing your nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching your face.
- Practice social distancing. Work at least 6' apart at all times. Working 10+ apart gives some cushion.
- Disinfect equipment (tools, buckets, hoses, wheelbarrow, etc.) before and after you use it. Bring your own tools from home if you have them, but please don't share them with others.
- Spray your way in, spray your way out. Please spray/wipe all surfaces/objects before and after you touch them. There is bleach solution spray provided. Leave on surface for at least 1 minute before wiping down. Please use your own rags.

For more details on Common Threads Best Practices, please scan the QR code:
Questions? Call (360)-927-1590, or email
admin@commonthreadsfarm.org.



Volunteer Management

Garden Care Guide Care Details for each school garden



ALL VOLUNTEERS

Cordata Garden Visits - April 2020

During this challenging time, Common Threads is so glad to be finding ways to support and connect with YOU, our beloved community. Our AmeriCorps Food Educators are hard at work preparing and planting school gardens. Even though school is out for the rest of the year, we love the idea that gardens will be a place of sanctuary.

If you'd like to volunteer, or even just reserve some time that you and your family can spend time together outdoors in a beautiful place, please sign up here.

We've created these time slots so that you can enjoy the garden while also ensuring social distancing. When signing-up, please agree to follow our [best practices during Covid-19](#) including:

- Please stay home if you or a household member are sick.
- Please wear a mask and bring your own gloves and hand drying towel.
- Prop open all gates/doors first thing, to eliminate the need to touch them during your stay.
- One person at a time in the shed.
- Wash your hands before and after gardening, after blowing one's nose, coughing, sneezing, or touching one's face.
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- Spray your way in, spray your way out. Please spray/wipe all surfaces/objects before and after you touch them with the bleach solution spray provided. Leave on the surface for at least 1 minute before wiping down. Use your own rags.

Once you have signed up, you will receive emails from the Food Educators of each school about specific garden tasks as well as more information pertaining to each garden. Please reference our [Garden Care Guide](#) for gardening resources relevant for all of our gardens.

Thank you!

MAY 2020



List View

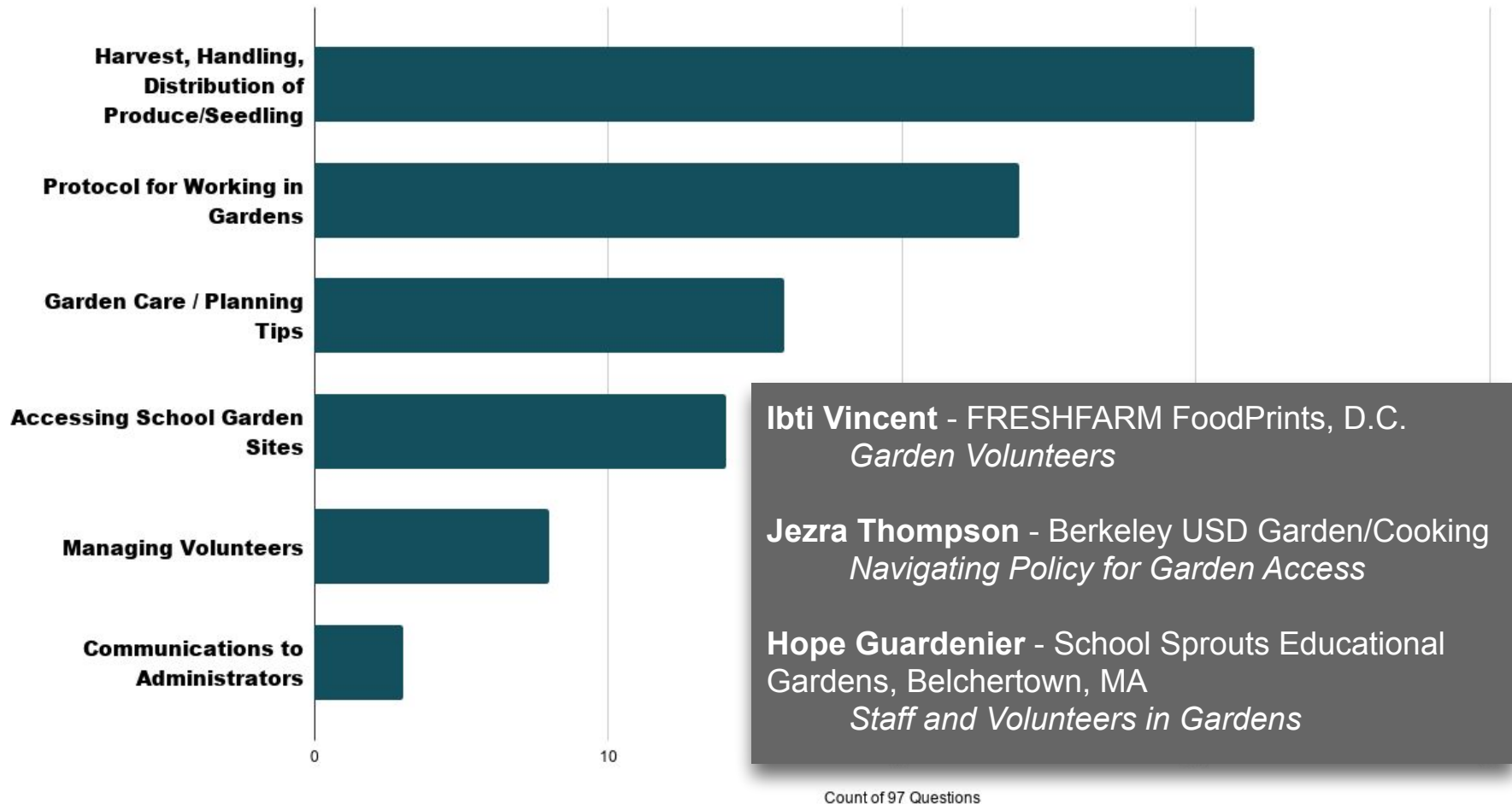
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3 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	4 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	5 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	6 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	7 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	8 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	9 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up
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24 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	25 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	26 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	27 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	28 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	29 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up	30 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm + more Sign Up
31 9:00am-11:00am 11:00am-1:00pm						

Submit and Sign Up

Share Out



Count of School Garden Care (During COVID) Virtual Gathering Registrant Questions



COVID-19 Resources

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Distance Teaching Resources

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