

May 1, 2020

Retail Garden Center Owners/Managers:

DEM working with DBR is providing additional clarification on issues, scenarios and questions which have come up since release of the attached guidance:

Greenhouses with sides that can be rolled up: The guidance prohibits access to interior spaces but many growers have pointed out that the sides of their greenhouses can be rolled up which is done for climate control. Public access to the interior of greenhouses is therefore allowed only if the sides are rolled up and with customers/employees following applicable social distancing standards.

Use of hand carts: Many growers and garden center managers have asked whether customer use of hand carts provided by the facility is allowable to minimize customer/employee close contact. Such would allow the customer while wearing gloves to place products they choose directly into their cart and then load their own vehicle after checkout. This is acceptable as long as customers do not touch any product they are not going to purchase or return any product to the shelf that was placed in the cart, and the common touch points on the cart are sanitized after each use.

Complaint Process – the following link to the Department of Business Regulation lists COVID 19 resources and the process to file a complaint (see first tab) <https://dbr.ri.gov/covid/covid19updates.php>. You may also call DBR at 889-5550.

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