



COVID-19 (coronavirus)

STATEMENT

(Updated 4/6/2020)

The Atlanta ToolBank is committed to the safety, health and welfare of our staff, volunteers and members at all times. We are taking serious measures to do our part to flatten the curve of transmission of COVID-19. In response to questions we've received from partners and stakeholders, and in anticipation of what is to come in the next few weeks and months, here are vital details of our comprehensive precautions:

- Staff reduction and shift staggering
 - Internally, we are focused on all projects that can be completed remotely. All non-essential tool lending staff will telework in the near-term with few exceptions. When on-site, staff will practice social distancing in accordance with CDC recommendations and guidelines. We will guarantee regular wages for all staff without having to use paid time off or sick time. This is a small part of what we can offer to promote the general welfare and ensure none of our staff has to make a hard choice between their paycheck and their health.
- Limited interaction with members, volunteers, and trainees
 - For the remainder of April, we have postponed all in-person classes in the Tool Training Center, volunteer events at the ToolBank, and facility rentals. We will revisit opening the TTC after the city and state lift the Shelter in Place Order.
- Restricted access to our facility
 - As a normal practice, all visitation to the ToolBank is by **appointment only**. This will continue to be the case during times of heightened precaution, but additionally the front entrance and side gate will be locked at all times and only those individuals with appointments pre-approved by ToolBank staff will be allowed in the waiting or loading areas to limit the number of visitors to our facility.
- Remote meetings and trainings
 - All meetings are now taking place 100% remotely to limit personal physical interactions.
 - **We have transitioned to virtual trainings. We are offering free weekly classes where individuals can learn about tool maintenance and repair, garden tips, basic home repair, and more.** Once the Shelter in Place Order is lifted, we will offer additional trainings where individuals can build bird houses and toolboxes in their own home. Supplies can be delivered or picked up from the ToolBank with little to no human interaction.

- Enhanced buffer zones
 - Our staff is switching out gloves for any interaction with tools, using a new pair for every transaction. Soiled pairs are washed immediately using hot water, then dried on high heat.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection
 - All tools issued during this time of acute crisis will be disinfected beforehand.
 - All returned tools will be quarantined 72 hours, then cleaned per FEMA and CDC regulations and recommendations.
 - Hand sanitizer dispensers have been ordered and will be installed at all pedestrian entrances to the ToolBank.
- Extension of tool orders and waiver of extension fees
 - For any member agency who currently has tools out, they will be able to extend their order without incurring extra fees.
- Demand for tools
 - We are working with our networks of health professionals, first responders and critical service partners to provide tables, chairs, and other event supplies and equipment for mobile food distribution and pop-up testing sites.
 - We are working with community gardeners and urban farmers to ensure they have the tools and equipment necessary to continue growing fresh local food for our community.
 - **If any organization providing COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, or local growers need our equipment, we are here for them. Please spread the word and have organizations e-mail our Tool Lending Program Manager, Chad Pickett at chad.pickett@toolbank.org to arrange details if they need a resource we can provide.**
 - All other non-essential tool lending is on hold until Atlanta lifts the Shelter in Place Order.
- Giving
 - The Atlanta community has **always** pulled together in times of uncertainty. Now is no different. With postponement or cancellation of fundraising activities, tool orders and events, the negative impact of this pandemic on the charitable community has already begun. We rely on generous support from people and companies who wish to make a difference. Now more than ever, we need your support. The organizations we serve are counting on us, and we are counting on you. Please consider clicking the link below:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/atlanta-community-toolbank-inc>

We continue to closely monitor the situation and adhere to best practices as put forward by trusted officials including the CDC, WHO, and GEMA. As such, more modifications to our standard operations may be forthcoming. It is essential that we balance our availability for partners with the safety of all stakeholders of the Atlanta ToolBank.

Thank you for your continued support!

