

COVID-19 Safe Operating Recommendations for Community Gardens

It is the responsibility of each garden coordinator to ensure that members are aware of these guidelines.

Social gathering

- Any social gathering must respect current provincial gathering limits and physical distancing guidelines.
- Potlucks should remain banned as buffet-style service is prohibited.
- During plated-food events individuals must be seated to eat and drink, in their social bubbles, and maintain 6 feet (2 metres) of physical distance.

Physical distancing

- Everyone in the garden must always maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or 2 metres (unless gardening with members of the same household). For some gardens, this may mean limiting the number of people in the garden at one time.
- Children should only be brought to garden on an as-needed basis and should be instructed to follow these physical distancing and hygiene recommendations.

Cleaning and disinfection

Hand hygiene is an important means of preventing the spread of COVID-19. All community gardens should consider ways that they can encourage and support their gardeners in hand hygiene:

- If possible, provide a place for gardeners to wash their hands, with [signage](#). If the handwashing station is in a bathroom, the bathroom needs to be equipped with water under pressure, liquid hand soap, and paper towels. Bathrooms are required to be cleaned at least twice daily, or as needed.
- Encourage gardeners to bring hand sanitizer (with minimum of 60% alcohol content) with them when gardening. If hands are visibly soiled, hand washing is recommended in place of hand sanitizer.
- Members are asked to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering and after leaving the garden, and after using shared tools, if feasible.

When possible and feasible, community gardens should consider other measures that would curtail the spread of COVID-19 such as:

- Removing shared tools and gloves and encouraging gardeners to bring their own.
- If removing shared tools is not possible, gardeners are to wear their own gloves when using shared tools or wash their hands after using shared tools. If cleaning tools, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Each gardener must wear their own pair of gloves.

- Closing or blocking off all non-essential amenities such as picnic tables and benches is not mandatory, however may be considered is an additional risk reduction measure.

Responsibilities

- Follow the KFL&A Public Health guidelines and DO NOT come to the garden [if you have symptoms](#). Visit the [KFL&A Public Health website](#) for the most recent screening tool including a list of symptoms.
- Print and post [visitor warning signs](#) instructing those with a travel history or with symptoms to not enter the garden.
- Garden coordinators are encouraged to develop a system that works for their garden to minimize touching of shared surfaces such as shed doors. To keep up with site work, garden coordinators may wish to have a scheduled rotation of members to perform site maintenance duties.
- Keep trips to and time spent at garden to a minimum (plan ahead!)
- Wash all produce before consumption according to safe food handling requirements.
- Let your coordinator know if you need support maintaining your garden.