



Community Garden Recommendations for COVID-19 Precautions

Provided by Alberta Health Services as a Draft (not officially approved) – May 4, 2020

Enhanced environmental cleaning and social distancing measures are required to prevent the spread of the COVID-19. The following is a list of recommendations for community gardens to consider in developing action plans for managing risks to their communities.

Educating Users

- Develop or download signs advising users of all rules and changes in operation as well as COVID-19 signs and symptoms, isolation requirements, physical distancing, hand hygiene, etc.
- Resources for signage can be found [here](#)
- Post rules and signage at all access gates and share via email and social media.
- Users should be advised to wash hands and/or use hand sanitizer before and after attending the site, and should wear gardening gloves while at the site.
- Users are required to physical distance and avoid close contact with others in the area.
- Prohibit anyone experiencing symptoms or required to be under isolation from attending the site.

Multiple Touch Items and Surfaces

- Identify all items and surfaces that may be touched by multiple users such as water tap, hose, hose nozzle, multi-use tools, gate, shed, wheelbarrow, etc
- Develop a plan to clean and disinfect these items between uses, or remove them from use if cleaning and disinfection between uses is not possible.
- Multi-use tools should not be provided. Gardeners should bring their own tools. If this is not possible, tools should be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use.
- Post signage on-site outlining cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- Hoses should be stretched out on side of path (not rolled) to expose them to the sun, and the first 4 feet should be disinfected before and after use along with the nozzle and water tap.
- Access to communal sheds should be prohibited where possible.

Sanitizing Surfaces

- A 1000 ppm (20ml bleach in 1L water) bleach solution should be used for disinfecting. Other approved disinfectants may also be used. See [recommendations for environmental cleaning](#) for more information.
- Ideally, a disinfecting solution and cleaning cloth should be provided onsite and checked and replaced at least daily. Gardeners should be directed to bring their own cleaning cloth and disinfecting solution if they cannot be provided on-site with procedures on how to mix a 1000 ppm bleach solution.

Promoting Physical Distancing

- Clearly designate each users space/plot.
- Restrict access to members only.
- One person, or at most 2 people from the same household should attend their plot at a time.
- Develop a schedule to prevent rush times and minimize use at any one time. The schedule should prevent users from attending adjacent plots at the same time.
- Consider ways to monitor compliance with developed rules (eg. supervision, member reporting, etc.)

Hand Hygiene

- Provide hand wash stations when possible. Supply stations with soap and paper towel
- Provide hand sanitizer at the community garden if possible. Store in a location accessible to members but safe from theft or adulteration.
- Encourage members to bring their own hand hygiene supplies, and clean gloves in addition to other measures