

COVID-19 Public Health Guidelines for All Community Gardeners

Gardeners should ensure that they are familiar with all rules and guidelines prior to accessing the garden.

- Individuals should not attend the garden if they are sick, have had close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, or close contact with someone who has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days. Complete Ontario's online self-assessment tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> before attending. Plot owners who must self-isolate should arrange to have someone tend their plot for them until they can return.
- Wash hands with soap and water before and after handling common tools such as hoses or gates and before and after gardening. If there is not a sink available, bring alcohol based hand sanitizer and sanitize hands regularly.
- Remember wearing gloves is not a substitute for frequent hand washing.
- Everyone in the garden must always maintain physical distancing of 2 metres/6 feet (unless gardening with members of the same household). If there is a chance you might come within 2 metres of someone else, wear a face covering/mask. Eye protection adds another layer of protection. Do not gather with others.
- Adhere to the garden schedule and do not attend the garden when it is not your scheduled time.
- Avoid touching surfaces such as gates and doorknobs if not necessary. Clean hands afterwards if you do touch them.
- Bring your own garden tools and sanitize them after use. Health Canada has created a list of disinfectants that are safe and effective against the virus (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>)
- If you have to bring your children to the garden, they should be instructed to follow physical distancing and hygiene recommendations.
- Do not bring pets to the garden with you.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth, eyes and face.
- If cloth face coverings are used as an added measure, wash hands before and after use and do not share with others.
- Place all trash in proper garbage receptacle or take garbage with you to dispose of at home.

By working together we can create a healthy and safe environment for our community gardeners.

Adapted from Windsor Essex County Health Unit