

## Guidance for Community Gardens

This document provides guidance for community gardens about actions that can be taken to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Every community garden is different, so gardening groups are encouraged to use this guidance to create a Garden Access Plan that addresses the needs related to their community garden. In this plan, gardening groups may consider offering dedicated garden times for seniors and other populations that are at higher risk for more serious COVID-19 disease. The advice below is based on current public health recommendations and may change at any time. For up-to-date information, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html>.

### Communication and Signage:

- If a person is ill with COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, headache, etc.), they should not enter the garden.
- If a person has been out of the province, make sure they follow current public health guidance for returning from travel. For current information on travel and COVID-19, visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/infomanitobans/index.html>.
- Garden Access Plans should be made available to all gardening participants.
- If necessary, create signs to direct flow of traffic through the garden area.
- Signs reminding gardeners of the advice in this resource should be placed in a visible location near the garden entrance(s). For printable signs visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/resources/index.html>.

### Personal hygiene:

- All people should follow proper hand hygiene upon entering and leaving the garden site. Wearing gardening gloves while visiting the garden may provide some protection but the wearer still must clean their hands before and after wearing gloves.
  - Sanitizing wipes or disinfectant spray (for cleaning tools and surfaces) and soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer (for cleaning hands) should be provided at the garden site. If this is not possible, gardeners should be asked to bring their own.
  - Gloves should be cleaned between uses. They should not be shared, if possible. If so, they should be cleaned between users.
- All people should cover their coughs and sneezes and should avoid touching their faces.

### Physical distancing:

- Respect public health limits on outdoor gathering size, which would be the maximum number of individuals who could be present at the garden at any given time. For current information on gathering limits visit <https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/soe.html>.

- o If individuals find that the garden is reaching capacity, they should not enter the garden until enough people leave to respect current gathering limits. For smaller gardens, it may be useful to create a schedule for member access to ensure physical distancing.
- Community garden plots must provide enough space to allow for physical distancing of two metres (six feet) between gardeners.
- If possible, a coordinator or volunteer should be present during the day to ensure physical distancing and other COVID-19 measures are being followed.
- If possible, gardeners should limit the number of family members that attend the garden at the same time. Children should visit the garden only if they are able to physically distance from non-household members and follow personal hygiene guidance.

### **Enhanced Cleaning:**

- When possible, gardeners should bring their own tools to reduce the risk of spread of the virus. Personal tools should be taken home at the end of the day or stored securely.
- Cleaning/disinfection supplies should be available for any common use items or frequently-touched surfaces.
- In situations where there are items/surfaces that will be touched by multiple people, gardeners should minimize use of these common items/surfaces as much as possible. Examples include reusable bins and buckets, shared tools, garden hoses and valves, railings, handles, seating, tables, etc.
- Gardeners should clean their hands before and after using any common use items or frequently-touched surfaces.