

Community Gardening in Ottawa during COVID-19

Community Garden Member Agreement

2021

All adult members taking part in each garden plot, need to sign this agreement and confirm updated email contact information (and where not available, then a phone number), for both regular and urgent communication during the growing season.

If new and additional COVID safety measures come out from public health, all gardeners signing this form acknowledge agreement to any new terms sent via identified means of communication above by the garden coordinator.

Being vaccinated does not excuse a garden member from following all the protocols.

These safety protocols are required to be followed by all gardeners in all gardens at all times in 2021.

Only people who have ‘signed’ this agreement are allowed to be in the plots.

By ‘signing’ below, everyone in the garden is agreeing to do the following:

Make sure you are healthy before going to the garden:

It is not permitted to enter the site if you have symptoms of COVID-19. All garden members agree to do a Covid-19 health self-assessment each day before attending the garden to ensure they are not ill. If you may be sick, you need to self-isolate or seek medical advice and not go to the garden until you are better. You can find the assessment online: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/> or if you don't have internet at home, please ask your coordinator or Just Food for information about this.

Maintain Physical Distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) and wear masks when that isn't possible.

Follow provincial regulations that masks are required at any time when within 2m of someone from outside your household, this would apply in both indoor and outdoor settings.

Understand and observe individual garden rules such as following garden scheduling and maximum# gardeners allowed in the garden at any time or restricted use of benches/tables/gazebos.

All garden members must maintain physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) at all times, unless they are of the same household.

Only 1 or 2 garden members should be working at each plot. Having more than 1 or 2 garden members will make it difficult or impossible (depending on size of garden) to maintain at least 2 metres from all other people and would be unfair to other garden members.

Garden members must wear masks when physical distancing is difficult, for protection of oneself and/or others.

“The Public Health Agency of Canada now recommends that Canadians choose masks made of at least three-layers with one of the layers being a filter to add an extra layer of protection against COVID-19.” See details on face mask on Ottawa Public Health’s website.

<https://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/masks.aspx>

Garden committee and/or coordinators will follow public health advisory and assess in each garden whether to keep, restrict or remove garden-owned sitting and gathering areas.

If you have an even numbered plot, you may come to the garden on even dated days, for example, 2, 4, 6. If you have an odd numbered plot, you may come to the garden on odd dated days, for example, 3,5,7.

Children should only be brought to the garden as long as they can follow physical distancing and cleaning rules in the garden and has be counted as maximum# in the garden. Children cannot be brought in if they are too young to follow the rules, (unless they can be kept in a stroller or are carried in an on-body support). Parents or guardians who bring children to the garden are responsible for following the guidelines and sanitizing any tools the children use.

Keep Hands and Tools Clean and Safe

Garden members must practice good personal hygiene practices such as washing hands, coughing or sneezing into their arm, and not touching their face (mouth, nose, or eyes) unless they have washed their hands immediately before. Washed hands are the best protection against accidentally transferring the virus to your mouth, nose or eyes where infection can get started.

Wash hands as soon as possible before and after gardening at the site. If hands are visibly soiled, handwashing with soap and water is preferred, but hand sanitizer with a minimum alcohol content of 60%, can also be used (remove dirt from hands first) to disinfect hands after interacting with other people and completing tasks.

Wearing gloves does not replace good handwashing. From the guidance provided, we are not necessarily encouraging the use of gloves—latex or gardening. Use your own garden gloves and bring them home to wash with soap and clean water after each use. Always wash your hands thoroughly immediately after taking off your gloves.

Keep garbage and clutter out of the garden to maintain cleaner surfaces. Gardeners should dispose of used sanitizing wipes and personal protective equipment safely at home. Do not throw them in a compost bin.

Consider minimizing the use of shared tools and cleaning and disinfecting tools that are shared.

Gardeners using shared tools must wash hands and tools with soap before and after use.
Gardeners using their own tools must store them in their plot or off site when not in use.
No hoses are to be left on the shared hose stands or water faucets.

Stay in contact with the Coordinator all season

All garden members will maintain communication with their Community Garden Coordinator during the full growing season, and make sure coordinators have your contact information -phone and email (if you can access the internet).

Garden members understand that things could change throughout the growing season and that coordinators will get new information as soon as possible to everyone, which will need to be followed.

Every gardener who has an email can sign up for the Just Food gardening newsletter at http://justfood.nationbuilder.com/newsletter_signup.

Crises like a pandemic increase tensions and anxiety. All garden members will do their best to respond with calmness and compassion to others around them.

Garden members will help to create a positive environment by sharing correct information and treating all people in gardens with respect.

Garden members will reach out to their coordinator if they have any questions, needs, or concerns. They can also reach out to Just Food's Community Gardening Network if there are challenges that cannot be solved with Coordinators. Email comms@justfood.ca, or call 613-824-7771 to leave your name and phone number and the garden you are at.

Follow the rules!

All community garden members need to recognize that Community Gardens are deemed as essential food services during the pandemic, and therefore need to do their part to follow all current public health advice and all current COVID regulations. If rules and regulations change during the growing season, gardeners will be informed by garden coordinators, and will agree to follow the up to date guidelines.

The need to contain the spread of the COVID-19 must be our main focus at this time.

Contact information for my plot:

Email address(es):

Phone number(s):

Names of everyone using my plot:

I have read and understood the Garden Member Agreement. I will comply with all current public health advice and all current COVID regulations, including the ones listed in this agreement, and new up-to-date guidelines informed by your garden coordinators during this growing season. I understand that if I don't follow the rules, I may be told by Just Food (working with the City of Ottawa) that I can't use my plot this year, and I could be fined by the City of Ottawa ByLaw Officers.

Signed and dated by all adult members taking part in this garden plot:

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date:

Signature:

Date: