

## **Community Gardens Frequently Asked Questions and Answers**

It is important to monitor the public health guidance from the Department of Health and Community Services as the situation can change quickly. Please check [www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19](http://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19), which is updated daily.

Community gardens are an important fixture in many communities across Newfoundland and Labrador. They increase food self-sufficiency and access to fresh, local food. They also create an appreciation for agriculture and contribute to a sense of community.

### **Are Community Gardens permitted to be open to the public?**

Yes, provided they can maintain measures to ensure physical distancing.

### **I run a Community Garden, how can I help slow the spread of the virus?**

There are a number of things that can be done to help slow the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Limit the number of people in the garden at any one time to accommodate for physical distancing (maintaining a distance of two metres or arm's lengths from others).
- Consider offering a schedule with a sign-up sheet to control the number of people in the garden at any one time.
- Advise those who are ill or who are part of an at-risk population (e.g., the elderly, immunocompromised, etc.) that they should not visit the community garden.
- Remind people how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as by staying home if you are sick, physical distancing, washing your hands, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- If tools are shared, ensure tools are cleaned between uses (<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning-NL.pdf>).
- Do not allow people to share gardening gloves.
- Encourage the use of non-medical masks by people in the garden.

### **I frequent a Community Garden, how can I help slow the spread of the virus?**

There are a number of things that can be done to help slow the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Maintain physical distancing when you are in the garden.
- Use your own tools, where possible, rather than sharing tools that may be available.
- Use your own gardening gloves and do not share them with anyone else.
- Wear a non-medical mask, if available.
- Practice proper hand hygiene by washing your hands or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol when entering and exiting the garden.