

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, 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.