

WEST SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN

COVID – 19 ACTION PLAN & GUIDELINES for SAFE GARDENING

Note: These Policies Supersede the *WSCR Community Garden Handbook for 2020 until further notice.*

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Feeling Sick

Do Not Enter the Garden if you are feeling sick or have any of the following symptoms: cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath.

Isolate for 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until your symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer. For more information visit <https://www.alberta.ca/isolation.aspx>

Leave the garden if you experience any cold or flu like symptoms (i.e., cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath). If a mask or cloth covering is available, put this on to reduce the chance of spread to others. Take all items you handled with you, clean and disinfect them and dispose of any garbage **at your residence**.

Arrange for someone to tend your bed. Invite a friend or post in our Facebook that you require someone to tend your bed while you are isolated.



Physical and Social Distancing

Maintain a distance of 2 metres between individuals at all times when gardening or talking to reduce disease transmission.

The longest side of a garden bed is about 2 metres. Keep away from other gardeners at least this distance.

Children must always be supervised. Children are not permitted to run through the garden or to play with the water taps on the water containers. The adjacent field can be used for playing and running. Alberta's Public Health Orders require physical distancing and you will be asked to leave the garden if children are unsupervised. The virus can persist on surfaces for several days so only touch your garden bed. Water from the containers must be used only for watering one's own garden. Please, no playing with water in the garden.

Do not bring pets into the garden. Pets are not permitted to be in the garden. There is conflicting evidence about the ability of pets to transmit the virus or for them to become ill from the virus. Please be respectful of others who may not be comfortable with a pet in the garden and understand that we are being asked to follow best practices.



Gathering of People = 15 Maximum

A maximum of 15 gardeners are allowed in the garden at one time.

Pick an alternate time if there are 15 people in the garden or if your section of the garden is too congested to maintain a **minimum 2 metre distance** between individuals.

Limit your group to a minimum number. We encourage families to garden together if the group can maintain the minimum distance of 2 meters from other individuals.

The garden is closed to the public. Signage at the entry and periphery of the garden will indicate that the garden is closed to the public to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission.

Garden efficiently. Do not linger in the garden. Stay only to do your gardening.



Best Practices

Hygiene



Entering and leaving the Garden sanitize your hands with alcohol-based sanitizer.



Respiratory practices of coughing or sneezing into a bent elbow must be adhered to.



Wear a mask. A non-medical mask will not protect the person wearing it but may be helpful in protecting those around you. If you choose to wear a mask take the precautions as described by Alberta Health Services at:

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page16997.aspx>.

Tools



Bring your own tools, watering can, gardening gloves and disinfecting products.



You must take these items with you when you leave. To be effective, hand sanitizer must have an alcohol content of at least 60%. Check wipes for effectiveness.



Gloves are not a substitute for washing or sanitizing your hands.



Do not share tools and disinfect them before and after use.

Watering



New 2 x 245-gallon water containers will be placed in the garden as the only water source. Volunteers will maintain these watering containers, so gardeners can fill their own watering cans using the tap.



Sanitize taps on the water container before and after you use it. Clean taps protect everyone from COVID-19.

No access to hoses or to hose keys at this time. We are minimizing common touch points/surfaces to reduce transmission of the virus and adding extra water containers.

Sheds



Garden sheds will be temporarily closed. We are required to reduce the possibility of virus transmission by limiting common touch points and common surfaces.

Benches



Benches are off limits for now. It is not possible for us to keep the surfaces of the benches disinfected to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Signage will be posted on all benches.

Garbage



Take your trash with you when you leave the garden. No garbage receptacles at the garden will be disinfected regularly. Please take your garden waste and any other garbage with you to be disposed of at your residence.



Volunteers

We are not organizing volunteers into teams currently.

Please bring your own broom and occasionally sweep off the cement patios.

Please, from time to time, wear a face mask and pull a few weeds when in the garden.

Volunteers will fill the new water containers daily and will disinfect water taps, before and after the containers are filled. These will be the only individuals with access to the hoses and keys in the shed. Strict hygiene, glove use and disinfection of surfaces will be required. Each volunteer will be asked to take one week of water filling duty to reduce possible transmission.



Monitoring

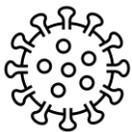
Alberta's public health orders can be legally enforced, and fines issued for violations.

For the most current list of restrictions, please go to <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-orders-and-legislation.aspx>

Violators may be subject to tickets of \$1,000 per occurrence, and courts may administer fines of up to \$100,000 for a first offence and more for a subsequent offence or for more serious violations.

If you are concerned someone is not following public health orders, you can:

- Remind the person that not following public health orders is against the law and puts people at risk
- Submit a complaint to AHS public health inspectors
- Submit a complaint online at <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmportals.com/create-case/>
- If you cannot submit online, you can call 1-833-415-9179 or the toll-free province-wide Alberta Connects comment line at 310-4455 to submit a complaint by leaving a message when prompted.



Current Information for COVID-19

For current information about COVID-19 in Alberta go to <https://www.alberta.ca/coronavirus-info-for-albertans.aspx>

References

Alberta Health Services COVID - 19 Public Health Order Violations [Online] // Alberta Health Services. - 2020. - <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmportals.com/create-case/>.

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City of Calgary COVID-19 (Coronavirus): Outdoor spaces and parks [Online]. - 2020. - <https://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/cema/Pages/COVID-19-Calgary-Parks.aspx>.

City of Edmonton Community Gardens [Online] // City of Edmonton. - 2020. - https://www.edmonton.ca/residential_neighbourhoods/gardens_lawns_trees/community-gardens.aspx.

City of Red Deer News Room [Online] // The City of Red Deer. - 2020. - <https://www.reddeer.ca/whats-happening/news-room/city-offers-modified-community-garden-plot-program.html>.