

WEST SPRINGS COMMUNITY GARDEN

COVID – 19 ACTION PLAN & GUIDELINES for SAFE GARDENING

Note: These Policies Supersede the WSCR Community Garden Handbook for 2021.
Guideline changes will be sent out via email and posted in our Facebook Group, WSCR Community Garden.

Contents

Feeling Sick.....	2
Physical and Social Distancing	2
Gathering of People = 10 Maximum.....	3
Best Practices.....	3
Hygiene	3
Tools	3
Watering	4
Sheds.....	4
Benches	4
Garbage.....	4
Volunteers.....	4
Monitoring.....	5
Current Information for COVID-19.....	5
References.....	6



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). A mask is not required so long as you maintain a two-metre distance from others. Some individuals will prefer to wear a mask. Kindly respect their decision. Take all items you handled with you, clean and disinfect them and **dispose of any tissues, or 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 running unsupervised. Water from the containers must be used only for watering one's own garden. Please, no playing with water in the garden.

Dogs in the garden are permitted if leashed. We are not considered an off-leash area and The City of Calgary requires all dogs "must be under control at all times. Do not pet other people's dogs. Don't let anyone pet your dog."

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 = 10 Maximum

A maximum of 10 people is allowed in the garden at one time.

Pick an alternate time if there are 10 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. Current recommendations are for only one or two people from the same household to garden their bed. We encourage families to garden together if your small group can maintain the minimum distance of 2 meters from other individuals.

The garden is open to the public. We are following The City of Calgary guidelines for parks.

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.



Wearing a mask. If you choose to wear a mask, refer to Alberta Health for more information. <https://www.alberta.ca/masks.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



Use the 2 x 245-gallon water containers beside each garden shed as these will remain the only water source at the garden. 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 currently. We continue to minimize common touch points/surfaces to reduce transmission of the virus and adding extra water containers.

Sheds



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

Benches

Benches are available to enjoy the garden now. If you or your group are using the benches, you are reminded to sanitize and/or wash your hands. Do not touch your eyes, mouth or nose after sitting on the benches. We will NOT be disinfecting them.

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 organizing volunteers into teams currently.

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

Please, from time to time, 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

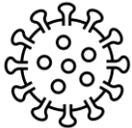
Alberta's public health orders can be legally enforced, and fines issued for violations.

For the most current list of restrictions, please go to <https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.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:

- Request service from Alberta Health Services
- Submit a complaint to AHS public health inspectors at 1-833-415-9179
- Submit a complaint online at <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmportals.com/create-case/>



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

Government of Canada Risk mitigation tool for outdoor recreation spaces and activities operating during the COVID-19 pandemic [Online] // Government of Canada. - 2021. - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/guidance-documents/risk-mitigation-tool-outdoor-recreation-spaces-activities-operating-covid-19.html>

Alberta Health Services Public Health Orders [Online] // Alberta Health Services. - 2021. - <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-orders-and-legislation.aspx>

Alberta Health Services Help Prevent the Spread [Online] // Alberta Health Services. - 2021. - <https://www.alberta.ca/prevent-the-spread.aspx#toc-4>.

City of Calgary COVID-19 - Parks and outdoor spaces [Online] //City of Calgary. - 2021. - <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/cema/covid19/safety/covid-19-calgary-parks.html>

Calgary Horticultural Society Community Gardens [Online] // Calgary Horticultural Society. - 2021. - <https://www.calhort.org/resources/community-gardens/covid-19-practices-for-community-gardens/>