

Community Gardening in Ottawa during COVID-19

Community Garden Member Agreement

May 2020

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

By ‘signing’ below, I am agreeing to do the following:

Make sure you are healthy before going to the garden:

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)

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 more difficult to maintain at least 2 metres from all other people and would be unfair to other garden members.

In order to ensure that everyone has adequate space to safely garden, you can access your plot on an even-odd rotation. If your plot is an even number (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8 etc.) you can access the garden on even days of the month (e.g. 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.) If your plot is an odd number (e.g. 3, 5, 7, 9 etc.) you can access the garden on odd days of the month (e.g. 3, 5, 7, 9 etc.)

Parking and Garden Access : Gardeners can only access the garden from Sloan Ave (west side of the park, close to Bronson Ave) Parking for gardeners will only be available on Sloan Ave.

Do not use sitting or eating areas to gather with others. Gardens have been asked to close down these areas.

Children should only be brought to the garden on an as-needed basis. Children cannot be brought in if they are too young to understand physical distancing and cleaning

rules in the garden (unless they can be kept in a stroller or are carried in an on-body support). They must also remain in their plot. Parents or guardians who bring children to the garden are responsible for following the guidelines and sanitizing any tools the children use.

Garden members may wear face masks if they choose especially when physical distancing is difficult, to protect others from the spread of droplets generated by breathing, talking, coughing, sneezing, etc. Face masks can *reduce* (not eliminate) the spread of droplets from people who are infected but aren't showing symptoms. Masks don't replace proper physical distancing. See guidance from Health Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medical-devices/activities/announcements/covid19-notice-home-made-masks.html>

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 can be effective if dirt is removed from hands first.

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. Practice 'Leave No Trace' and bring all your garbage home with you.

Consider minimizing the use of shared tools and cleaning and disinfecting tools that are shared. Members are encouraged to bring their own tools.

Garden members can consider bringing their own cleaner/ disinfectant to wipe commonly touched surfaces prior to use and ideally after. These may include: reusable bins, buckets, shared tools, railings, doorknobs, water spigots and tables. Ensure that all dirt and other

organic matter is removed from the surface of tools before sanitizing. Make sure tools are dry before sanitizing or else the sanitizer will be diluted.

- a) For disinfecting, use a disinfection solution that meets the advice of the Public Health Ontario and Health Canada for Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet-covid-19-environmental-cleaning.pdf?la=en>

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.

Every gardener who has 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.

Follow the rules!

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

This agreement follows Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) "Recommendation for Community Gardens" ([English](#) and [French](#)) and was reviewed by Ottawa Public Health.

I understand that if I don't follow the rules, I may be told by Just Food (working with 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:

Date:

