



## Recommendations for Allotment and Community Garden Coordinators to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

### Recommendations for Allotment and Community Garden Coordinators to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19:

- Seek approval from garden landowner for permission to operate in 2020.
- Develop an operation plan specific to each garden that includes a section on infection prevention taking into account garden-specific factors such as the size of the gardens, the layout of the gardens, the proximity of plots to each other, the common areas and amenities on site, and if there are special provisions or restrictions for gardeners at risk of contracting COVID-19.
- Limit the number of gardeners at each garden site to a number that will permit adequate [physical distancing](#). Consider scheduling gardener access to prevent too many people being at the garden at one time.
- Permit access to gardeners for the purpose of planting, maintenance and harvesting food only.
- Do not plan or host events at the garden that bring people together to the site.
- Consult your local public health inspector for feedback or to answer any questions. Landowners may also want to view a copy of this plan to provide feedback and approval.
- Send a copy of the final 2020 garden operational plan to all gardeners so they can assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and permit those who do not wish to follow the plan or garden this year to opt out of gardening this year.
- Update the list of current registered members, staff and volunteers, and track those who have agreed to participate under COVID-19 policies and protocols. This may assist with communication, close-contact tracing if required, etc.
- Post signage stating that only registered gardeners, staff and volunteers are permitted to use the garden plots. Include who to contact at the garden if there are questions or suggestions for improved operation or infection prevention.
- Provide resources to gardeners so they are aware of steps they need to take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at their gardens including:
  - how to safely share gardening materials and tools,
  - how to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as hoses, door/gate handles, tools, etc., and
  - if feasible, provide soap and water for cleaning and hand washing and an approved disinfectant for disinfection of commonly touched surfaces. If you are providing products have original labels and are stored properly to prevent spills and accidental poisonings.
- Post clear, visible signage at all garden entrances reminding registered members, staff and volunteers about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and where to seek assistance if they have symptoms (Timiskaming Health Unit [1-866-747-4305], or health care provider). Resources and posters are available online at THU website info in French and English that address topics such as [handwashing](#), [cough etiquette](#), and [physical distancing](#).
- Place clear, visible signage throughout the garden — especially locations where shared equipment, tools, etc. are located — reminding registered members, staff and volunteers of the requirements that must be followed when using the garden to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.