COVID-19 - Community Garden Best Practices:

- Postpone any events to avoid people gathering in close contact.

- Practice social distancing within the garden when multiple gardeners are present on site (maintain a distance of 1-2 metres between individuals).

- Consider limiting the number of people in the garden at any given time. One option is to create a rotating schedule for gardeners.

- Wear gloves when using shared tools, or bring your own tools from home.

- Communicate that anyone displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or who has come into contact with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19, or who has travelled outside of Canada in the past two weeks should NOT come to the gardens. Ask anyone displaying symptoms to leave.

- Gardens should provide hand-washing stations, if at all possible, and/or hand sanitizer and request that everyone wash their hands before entering the garden and upon exiting.

- Disinfect surfaces on a regular basis, including: reusable bins and buckets, shared tools, railings, doorknobs, tables, gate latches, spigots, etc.

- Plan ahead: Be prepared for the possibility that there may be limited access to the garden or gardeners may be sick at critical times in the future.

- Stay engaged: The garden is the social center for many gardeners. Social Distance need not lead to social isolation. Stay in touch even when you can’t gather in person. Use your website, listservs, social media and newsletters to foster connection. Some ideas: share stories, tips and strategies; recipes; photos of home gardens and gardens from previous years; online webinars on gardening topics.