

Councillor Request Inquiry

#06-2020

2020

Please provide information on community garden rules under Covid 19 (physical distancing) – and is there an option to stagger times for community gardens.

Good afternoon Council,

Transportation and Agriculture Services would like to provide the following information regarding Community Gardens Under Covid-19 in relation to the Information Request submitted during the April 21, 2020 meeting to LLS and RPC.

Information Request: Community Gardens Under Covid-19

Councillor: D. Anderson, Ward 2

Department: LLS, RPC

Due: May 5, 2020

An "If You Are Asked" regarding Community Gardens was shared on April 24 in a communication to council as shown below:



IF YOU ARE ASKED

April 24, 2020

Bottom line

Strathcona County's community gardens are permitted to operate subject to participants following Alberta Health Services restrictions on gatherings and physical distancing.

Details

- The opening of community gardens was paused temporarily in April to align with the closure of Strathcona County parks and playgrounds.
- The province clarified that community gardens are permitted to operate if they follow AHS restrictions. This information was shared with garden groups on April 17.
- Operating guidelines that outline AHS restrictions, along with updated garden licence agreements, will be shared and discussed with garden leaders for further input.
- Garden groups will be permitted to open after the updated licence agreements and operating guidelines are in place. This date will vary for each group, but we anticipate it will be around the May long weekend.
- As this situation with COVID-19 is changing rapidly, Strathcona County will let garden groups know that, although our current plan is to open community gardens, this may change based on guidance from Alberta Health Services.

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- This direction aligns with greenhouse garden centres being open, as Alberta Health Services has deemed them as essential services.

Additional background

- List of essential services: <https://www.alberta.ca/essential-services.aspx>
- Restrictions are in place for close-contact businesses, dine-in restaurants and non-essential retail services. Residents must contact Environmental Public Health here <https://ephisahs.microsoftcrmpartals.com/create-case/> to report a breach of restrictions that are in place for non-essential services.

Communications

- Web page will be updated with safe operating guidelines
- Signage on site at each garden location
- Urban agriculture and community garden newsletter
- Operating guidelines shared with garden groups

Internal contact

David Churchill, Director, Transportation and Agriculture Services, 780-417-7130.

Should you have any questions please contact David Churchill at 780-417-7130 or David.Churchill@strathcona.ca.

Thank you and stay well,

Kara Markine

Administrative Assistant to the Director
Transportation and Agriculture Services