

COVID-19 Guidance for Garden Centres

It is important for garden centers to adjust practices to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. This includes practices such as safe physical distancing, proper individual hygiene practices and ensuring adequate cleaning and disinfection.

ADVICE FOR GARDEN CENTRE OPERATORS

- Passive screening signage must be clearly visible at entrances. The screening questions will prohibit individuals who have any symptoms of COVID-19 or contact with a COVID positive patient or have been outside of NB in the past 14 days from entering the centre and should self-isolate at home and call 811 for advice if symptomatic.
- Post signage at the entrance explaining the expectations for the customer.
- The centre should have one entrance point and one exit point to help manage the flow of patrons.
- Limit the number of individuals in the centre at any given time. Consider having staff on hand to monitor the number of patrons entering the centre.
- Promote alternate ordering options such as ordering on-line, by phone or by email.
- Consider offering curb side pick-up or delivery.
- Ensure a physical separation of 6 feet or 2 metres between customers.
- Consider placing directional arrows in aisles if less than 6 feet in width.
- Consider placing plexi-glass or plastic barriers at each cash register if unable to maintain 2 meters between cashier and customer.
- Regularly clean and disinfect any surfaces within each centre such as hoses, watering cans, benches, sheds, storage bins etc.
- When choosing an environmental cleaning product, it is important to follow product instructions for dilution, contact time and safe use, and to ensure that the product is:
 - Registered in Canada with a Drug Identification Number (DIN)
 - Labelled as a broad-spectrum virucide
- If using household bleach (sodium hypochlorite – 5.25%) as a disinfectant, the concentration must be 1000 ppm. The solution can be made by mixing 1 teaspoon (5 ml) bleach to 1 cup (250 ml) water **or** 4 teaspoons (20 ml) bleach to 1 litre (1000 ml) water. Allow surface to air dry naturally.
See link: <https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/CDCOVIDE.pdf>
- Consider offering a designated time for elderly people, individuals with disabilities who require assistance or individuals with compromised immune systems to shop, prior to the general public. This time should be respected and limited to those customers.

ADVICE FOR STAFF AND CUSTOMERS

- Staff must **WASH HANDS** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at the beginning of the shift, as often as possible.

- Cough or sneeze into your arm or tissue, and wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol content) after coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth.
- Staff should not share gardening gloves. If staff choose to wear disposable gloves, proper handwashing is required before and after use. Discard disposable gloves immediately after use into a sealed garbage bag.
- Staff should clean and disinfect tools between uses.
- Always maintain a physical separation of at least 6 feet or 2 metres from others.
- Strongly encouraged to wear a non-medical mask or face covering. This is an additional measure that can protect those around you, especially for staff if they are not able to maintain the 6 feet or 2 metre physical distancing.
- Remain home when sick. If you experience any symptoms of COVID-19 you should self-isolate at home and call 811 for advice.
- Families should limit shopping to one person per household.
- Take a moment to read the signage that is posted in stores and familiarize yourself with any changes or policies that have been implemented.
- Touch only the items you intend to buy.
- Choose to use tap or credit card payments as opposed to cash. Staff to ensure debit machines are sanitized after each transaction, and that they wash their hands after each transaction.
- When assisting customers to load their vehicle, maintain a physical separation distance of 6 feet or 2 meters.