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# Notice

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| **Date :** 2020-04-08 | | **Topic: community gardens, collectives, etc.** |
| **QUESTION** | | |
| As part of the research *Evaluation of Urban Agriculture as a green infrastructure of individual and collective resilience to climate and social change,* which we have been conducting with many partners since 2017, we have been asked to update the food importance of urban agriculture initiatives[(https://agriurbain.hypotheses.org/4739).](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fagriurbain.hypotheses.org%2F4739&data=02%7C01%7C%7C8e845ef0058f4148d6ca08d7dbf716a3%7C1cfd1395271149f5b90fba4278776919%7C0%7C1%7C637219726736221614&sdata=R6A%2FZ85mDOWuvxbEJUXIPtlwjnIOrVa4Ju0ogrTSp6Y%3D&reserved=0)).  Currently (in COVID19 situation) many partners in this research and other partners of the Laboratory on Urban Agriculture are trying to see how it would be possible for them to open the community gardens on 1 May. These are an agricultural activity and a significant food source for many families. May 1 is the date of the first direct plantings, while the larger production begins the 2nd or 3rd week of May.  In such a context, I think it is important to think about a protocol that would allow the safe opening of its food production spaces, such as listing on a sheet every day. defined number of people per day and well distributed in the garden, cleaning the entrance, closing the sheds until June (to avoid use of tools and contamination for multiurbase of these, but perhaps this is not necessary).  It is clear that INSPQ's expertise would be necessary and useful for cities. Community gardens, collectives, etc. are not public spaces like any other. It's a bit like supermarkets of fresh vegetables for many vulnerable people, including immigrants in many neighborhoods, boroughs. | | |
| **Analysis** | | |
| The epidemiological situation of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving in time and space. Currently, all 18 regions in Quebec are affected. However, the number of cases and the dynamics of the pandemic vary considerably from region to region. This opinion includes measures to be put in place to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among people engaged in urban agriculture in community and collective gardens.  The decision on the opening date of a community or collective garden should be taken by local authorities in consultation with the regional public health directorates and based on the local epidemiology of COVID and the presence of conditions to comply with the recommendations below. A link with the provincial level will also have to take place. | | |
| **Opinion** | | |
| **In order to allow the safe opening and operation of community food production spaces (community gardens, collective gardens or other) it is recommended to:**   1. Put in place rules for the conduct of operations:  * Appoint a person responsible for controlling the whereabouts of users in public spaces. * Allow restricted access to authorized persons on a strictly respected schedule.  1. Ensure that users apply basic prevention practices, including:  * Promote hand hygiene by providing users with the necessary equipment (running water, soap, hydroalcoholic solutions, contactless garbage cans, disposable handkerchiefs, towels or disposable paper). Promote the respiratory label (cough in your folded elbow, or in a handkerchief that is discarded immediately after use, and then wash your hands as soon as possible). Strictly enforce the exclusion for people with coughs, fever, breathing difficulties or other symptoms that may be added according to the following website:   <https://www.quebec.ca/sante/problemes-de-sante/a-z/coronavirus-2019/reponses-questions-coronaviruscovid19/#c46790>   1. Promote physical distance measures:  * Avoid physical contact (e.g., handshakes, hugs, etc.). * Respect a distance of 2 meters between individuals. * Avoid gatherings of people (e.g., meetings or breaks). * Avoid sharing equipment and equipment (e.g., construction equipment, gardening tools, etc.) * Place all objects and food on a clean surface, respecting the distance of 2 meters between individuals.  1. Hygiene:  * At the beginning and end of each work period or during any user change, clean and disinfect the materials and tools.   Clean work and storage space, frequently affected surfaces, common areas (picnic tables, counters, accessories, etc.). A fact sheet has been produced by inSPQ regarding cleaning procedures: [https://www.inspq.qc.ca/covid-19/environnement/nettoyage-surfaces](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.inspq.qc.ca%2Fcovid-19%2Fenvironnement%2Fnettoyage-surfaces&data=02%7C01%7C%7C91bbcb12607f4c9f146508d7dcb8bbc0%7C1cfd1395271149f5b90fba4278776919%7C0%7C0%7C637220558432136468&sdata=2hceOwXKSnDz1%2FKHkGV3hplUZRcCsg8I1k%2FYfL4LAy8%3D&reserved=0) | | |
| **References** | | |
| For more information on COVID-19 and the agricultural environments, the following sites can be very useful:   1. INSPQ Interim Recommendations for Farm Workers in Vegetable and Animal Production   <https://www.inspq.qc.ca/sites/default/files/covid/2947-travailleurs-agricoles-covid19.pdf>   1. MAPAQ COVID-19 question-and-answer document available at:   <https://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/fr/Avis_Publicite/Pages/COVID-19_QuestionsReponses.aspx>   1. Industry document produced by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada available at   <http://www.agr.gc.ca/fra/maladie-a-coronavirus-covid-19-information-pour-lindustrie/?id=1584732749543> | | |
| Writing: | Vladimir Gilca, France Bouchard, Marilou Kiely and Chantal Sauvageau for the committee knewthe population measures with the collaboration of the environmental and occupational health teams. | |
| Approval: |  | |

Note that this opinion relates to the scientific evidence available as of the date of that notice.