



**OHA COVID – 19 UPDATE**  
**As of: Sept 27, 2020**

***This update is to be treated as guidance and general information only.***

***Many municipalities now have mandatory mask-wearing by-laws, mostly for indoor venues. However, you must physically distance everywhere and wear a mask. One goes with the other, even outdoors.***

Society/Club Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the numbers of persons allowed inside at a gathering is 10 and outside is 50, please ensure everyone’s safety.</li> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority for all persons.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> <li>• Sanitizing all surface items, materials and areas such as bathrooms is a must.</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizers for people upon entry and exit from an event.</li> </ul>
Plant Sales Seed Exchanges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Societies/Clubs may wish to hold such events this Fall.</li> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizers for people upon entry and exit from an event.</li> </ul>
Garden Tours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the main timeframe for such events may have passed, should a Society/Club wish to hold an event, please ensure everyone’s safety.</li> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> <li>• Sanitizing of items, materials and areas such as bathrooms, stairways, garden sheds &amp; gazebo-type structures is a must.</li> </ul>
Trips/Excursions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group transportation is still a challenge.</li> <li>• Travel by car-alone, with the person(s) you live with or the persons in your personal bubble.</li> <li>• Choose a venue that is safe for all those participating.</li> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority for all persons both at the event and travelling to the event.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizers for people upon entry and exit from an event.</li> </ul>
AGMs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The OHA AGM has been postponed until a date to be determined based upon the declaration of the end of the Emergency.</li> <li>• Societies/Clubs may be looking at holding their AGM in the Fall however; there may well be many “issues” with holding such an event. Check your plans with your local Public Health Authority to ensure everyone will be safe.</li> </ul>

<p style="text-align: center;">Garden Upkeep &amp; Landscaping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For those wishing to continue participating in the clean-up and maintenance of Municipal or public gardens or areas – travel to the location alone or with the person(s) with whom you live.</li> <li>• Sanitizing of items, materials and areas such as bathrooms, stairways, garden sheds &amp; gazebo-type structures is a must.</li> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority for all persons.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Community Gardening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical distancing is a priority for all persons.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance.</li> <li>• Sanitizing of items, materials and areas such as bathrooms, stairways, garden sheds &amp; gazebo type structures is a must.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Masks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wearing of masks seems to be the hottest topic of conversation in the last month. There are many different opinions regarding when and if masks should be/could be/must be worn.</li> <li>• Check with the Provincial and Local Public Health Authorities about this practice.</li> <li>• When in doubt, it is wise to err on the side of caution and to be “safe” rather than “sorry”.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and physically distance at the same time.</li> </ul>

**We are currently in Stage 3; we must continue to be diligent in protecting ourselves and others. Seeing the spike in new cases across the province and the country only reminds us all that we must remain vigilant in our activities and ensure we are looking after everyone’s health.**

ALWAYS check with your Local Public Health Authorities and Local Government to ensure that whatever activity you wish to undertake is allowed and what guidelines must be followed.

With the increase in allowed numbers of persons inside a venue, it must be remembered that the venue has the final say on the practices to be followed. As an example, even though the Provincial or Local Health Authority may allow persons to not wear a mask under some circumstances, the owner or operator of the venue may still demand such a practice and this must be adhered to.