

# Lawn Care Safety for the Whole Family During COVID-19

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As it is every year at this time, it's finally spring and the grass is growing. What is different about this year though, is that the kids are home. It might seem like a good idea to send them outside to do some yard work while practicing social distancing—and it is! Fresh air and exercise can help ease the stress of being cooped up inside for months on end. Before you send them out though, make sure you and your family are familiar with these important safety tips, and make sure your kids are adequately supervised. Consider having an adult operate the potentially dangerous machinery and having the youth help prep the yard for the machinery.

## Safety Tips

Here are some tips to keep everyone safe:

- Wear closed-toed shoes or boots to keep feet safe and to ensure you don't slip and fall while mowing.
- Keep hands and feet away from the mower blade while it's operating. If it gets clogged with grass, turn it off before pulling out the matted grass.
- Don't disable any of the mower's safety mechanisms like shields or chutes.
- Walk through the yard to remove sticks, stones, or toys that could become lodged in or thrown by the mower.
- Be aware of holes and hidden hazards.
- Mow up and down a slope, not across it.
- Make sure everyone helping out is out of range of objects that could be thrown by the mower's blades (greater than 50 feet is advised).

## VCE Publications

Refer to these publications to learn more about lawn care safety:

- [Tractor Safety: Lawn Care Training Guide, Safe Use of Tractors](#)
- [Guidelines for Protecting Youth Workers: Promote Safe Practices and Protect Youth Workers](#)
- [Utility Type Vehicles: UTV Maintenance and Safe Use Lawn Care Training Guide](#)
- [Lawn Care: Hand Tools Safety](#)
- [Lawn Care: Powered Hand Tool Safety](#)
- [Lawn Care: Rotary Mower Safety](#)
- [Lawn Care: Tractor Safety](#)
- [Lawn Care: Utility-Type Vehicle Safety](#)

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