

# Ongoing COVID-19 Mitigation Guidance



**Volunteers and professionals need to consider the needs of their audience and make reasonable adjustments to the program to best engage the needs of learners with these guidelines in mind. For example, streaming a meeting or providing virtual engagement between meeting dates.**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Kansas and to keep staff, participants, volunteers, and the public safe, K-State Research and Extension made the difficult decision to suspend all face-to-face programming through July 4, 2020. All 4-H events, contests and activities that were planned at the state, regional, district, county and local levels were postponed, canceled or converted to non-face-to-face experiences, including programs led by local 4-H volunteers.

## **TRANSITIONING BACK TO FACE-TO-FACE PROGRAMMING AFTER JULY 4**

We must remain vigilant to keep safety of the participants, volunteers, and public top priority as we transition to face-to-face programming. Community volunteer leaders must consider the following but note that **no participant should be asked to participate in any manner that makes them feel uncomfortable or is unsafe.**

- Can the program be offered using a virtual platform?
- Are there participation options for families interested participating but concerned about the health/safety of their family?
- What precautions are you taking to minimize the participants' risk of exposure to COVID-19?
- Have you communicated public health etiquette to be practiced at the 4-H program?
  - Stay home if you have tested positive, are showing COVID-19 symptoms, or had close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the last 14-days.
  - Practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:
    - Frequently wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water is not readily available use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
    - Cover cough and sneezes with a tissue or use the inside of your elbow.
  - Use Cloth face coverings.
  - Maintain a 6-ft distance with others as much as possible.

# **GUIDELINES FOR 4-H YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

## **PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM**

- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that are frequently touched and establish a plan for cleaning and disinfecting every hour.
- Provide access to hand-washing stations with soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings, and no-touch trash cans as feasible.
- Modify layouts: Space seating at least 6-ft apart.

## **DURING THE PROGRAM**

- Reduce the physical closeness of participants and the length of time they are close to each other or to leaders
- Model and encourage the use of cloth face coverings.
- Reduce the amount of necessary touching of shared equipment/materials
- Whenever possible, group participants/volunteers from the same household together.
- Discourage handshakes, hugs or any other signs of greeting that violate physical distancing.
- Limit sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect.
- Circulate outdoor air as much as possible.
- Prioritize outdoor activities where social distancing can be maintained as much as possible.
- Food: If providing food at an event, provide pre-packaged boxes or bags for attendees instead of a buffet or family-style meal.
- Keep a record of participants' contact information.

## **RESOURCES**

The information was gathered from the CDC website:

- Guidance for Youth Programs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
- Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>
- Avoid contact for 14 days: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/care-for-someone.html> “Caregivers can leave their home 14 days after their last close contact with the person who is sick (based on the time it takes to develop illness), or 14 days after the person who is sick meets the [criteria to end home isolation](#).”

**Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service**

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