Tuesday News – September 6, 2022

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Features

4-H Volunteer News!

New Volunteer Hours Reporting Program!

Beginning July 1, we have been rolling out the implementation of our new volunteer hours reporting program. Each enrolled volunteer should have received an email inviting you to claim your account on GivePulse from your county office. Please claim those accounts as soon as possible. All resources you need to learn how to report your hours are located on the State 4-H Webpage: [https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/for-volunteers/volunteer-hours-report/](https://extension.wsu.edu/4h/for-volunteers/volunteer-hours-report/)
Volunteer Education Study

Each enrolled volunteer received an email on Monday asking them to complete a Volunteer Education survey. This is your chance to let the state office know what you think is appropriate for volunteer education. Of course, all volunteers will still need to take the basic modules and Put the Child First; beyond that, however, we are asking for your input. AND you get the chance to enter your name in a drawing for a $50 give certificate to the National 4-H Store. We will give away 6 gift certificates. The survey will close on Friday, September 23. We are looking forward to your responses!

State 4-H Fair Board Positions Are Open
Tom Gwin, State 4-H Fair Manager

The Washington State 4-H Fair Board of Trustees will have several positions open this fall. The board is accepting applications for appointment to the board. Adult positions are open in all four districts: northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast. In addition, there are two teen positions open on the board of trustees. The positions will be filled by appointment by the board of trustees upon the recommendation of the board’s executive committee.

The fair board is also accepting recommendations related to the State 4-H Fair. All recommendations will be reviewed by the board of trustees.

The board applications, recommendation forms, and the trustee guidelines are attached. Board applications and fair recommendations are due by October 1 to the address on the forms.

Any questions may be referred to the State 4-H Fair Office through the remainder of this year’s fair. The fair office telephone is 253-770-5410. Questions can also be submitted via email to st4hfair@wsu.edu.

Links;
Washington State 4-H Fair Trustee Guidelines
Washington State 4-H Fair Board Adult Application
Washington State 4-H Fair Board Teen Application
Washington State 4-H Fair Recommendation Form
An Invitation to Participate: 4-H Conference of Southern States  
Jana Ferris

All volunteers and 4-H professionals are invited to participate in the 2022 Volunteer Conference of Southern States, held October 6-9, 2022 at the Rock Eagle 4-H Center in Eatonville, Georgia. There are both in-person and virtual options for attending and the workshop offerings are amazing! Check out conference details at 4hvcoss.com  Contact Jana Ferris (ferrisj@wsu.edu) with any questions.

2022 Volunteer Conference Sou States – Tuesday News September 6
Save the Dates for KYG 2023!

STATE 4-H AMBASSADORS PRESENT THE 4-H YOUTH OF THE MONTH FOR AUGUST!

The Washington State 4-H Ambassadors recognize the 4-H Youth of the Month honoree for August, Lucy Teuteberg of Mason County! The Ambassadors are proud to highlight 4-H youth monthly throughout the year!
Livestock and poultry are susceptible to infectious diseases and many of these diseases are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted to people. A few more well-known zoonotic diseases include ringworm, rabies, and soremout. The most effective strategy for protecting farm animal health is to prevent or reduce the chances of introducing a disease into a herd or flock.

An online learning experience about livestock biosecurity was developed during a five-year livestock biosecurity grant project, directed by Animal and Veterinary Sciences Research Associate Professor Julie Smith. The result was the Healthy Farms Healthy Agriculture (HFHA) Biosecurity Learning Module Series. The learning modules are appropriate for students in grades 6 to 12, FFA and 4-H participants, college students studying animal science, and other agriculturally related youth groups.

The link for the learning modules, teaching guide, certificates of completion and more is https://learn.healthyagriculture.org.

The goal of the series is to create a new generation of biosecurity advocates. The first four modules help youth in agriculture discover biosecurity, the preventative
measures that protect farm animals from the spread of infectious diseases. The last two prepare youth to communicate what they have learned with others. Topics for the six modules—plus a hands-on activity—include:

1. What is animal biosecurity – an introduction to biosecurity concepts.
2. Routes of infection and means of disease transmission.
4. Farm biosecurity management plan – students learn how to develop a biosecurity plan.
5. Public speaking for biosecurity advocates I – students create a persuasive public presentation.
6. Public speaking for biosecurity advocates II – students learn how to deliver a persuasive speech.
7. A “SCRUB Kit” was also developed during the project, with hands on activities that complement the learning modules.

Updated learning modules were released in 2022, incorporating interactive elements and accessibility improvements.

Discovery learning is key to the design of the learning modules’ interactive curriculum. Students are presented with questions or tasks to complete to which they might not know the answers. They are also given supplemental information that introduces biosecurity concepts and helps the students make logical decisions. A printable guide is available for instructors with additional ideas and activities, career suggestions, and sets of homework and quiz bank questions. There are three paths available for interacting with the biosecurity learning modules:

1. A self-guided experience for students where the modules are hosted at Wisc-Online through Wisconsin’s Technical Colleges system.
2. Learn as part of a course – this option is for learners who are assigned one or more modules to complete on their own as a course requirement.
3. Learn with a leader – club and group leaders guiding learners through any of the modules.
As of July 16, anyone in the United States can call or text the number 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, if they or someone they know shows signs of crisis, especially suicide.

The number works much like 911, with calls routed based on where someone is calling from. For states that don’t have local services established, calls automatically reroute to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“This stems from the need to be available for mental health emergencies,” said Don McMoran, a Washington State University Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension educator and member of Washington’s taskforce for implementing 988. “Everyone knows you call 911 in an emergency. Mental health has a lot of numbers available, so 988 should be easier to remember when time is vital.”

McMoran leads the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, which covers 13 western states and four U.S. territories, thanks to a $7 million U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.
WSU Extension has several active programs working to reduce and eliminate suicide in the state.

“Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for teens in Washington,” said Ashley Hall, a 4-H assistant professor based in Snohomish County. “I’m hoping 988 is as simple and effective as 911 and helps reduce the stigma around mental health.”

Hall is involved in a program, led by her colleague Stephanie Roeter Smith, that implements research-based suicide prevention strategies for youths. The program provides trainings for parents and volunteers so they can recognize signs and symptoms in young people.

Hall and Smith also work closely with teens to provide leadership opportunities and training. Those opportunities have led to a program called “4-H Teens Helping Teens,” which started earlier this year with teens in three different Washington counties talking about mental health and suicide prevention via social media.

“It’s very rewarding to volunteer for such an important cause,” said Abby Ruddell, a 16-year-old member of the “4-H Teens Helping Teens” program. “The teen suicide awareness and prevention project is making resources readily available, and in ways that make it less scary to talk about. Our goal is to get the conversations started, have people seek help, change the way we talk about suicide, and ultimately, to prevent it.”

Another way Hall and Roeter Smith’s program is helping is by having people attend community events and passing out info and safety measures.
“Firearm death, including suicide and other gun deaths, has overtaken auto accidents for youth as the leading cause of death,” Hall said. “And attempts of suicide with firearms are more likely to be lethal than other methods.”

Along those lines, Hall and Roeter Smith teamed up with McMoran to give away gun safes to anyone who asks for one. Hall, who leads the 4-H Shooting Sports program in Washington, said locking up firearms slows down people contemplating suicide and buys invaluable seconds or minutes.

“The mental pause that happens when you have to go to a safe and open it often gives people enough time to get into a better mental space,” McMoran said. Overall, he said more than 250 safes have been distributed around the state at no cost. Recipients are asked to complete a short, anonymous survey, but nothing more. McMoran hopes to purchase 100 more safes to give away.

McMoran’s program is aimed at helping prevent suicide in agricultural and rural communities around Washington and the other states in his larger USDA-funded program. One of the people working with him is Alyssa Wade, a WSU Extension Farm Stress and Suicide Prevention coordinator.

“I go to functions with cattlemen, loggers, farmers, and farm workers. As soon as mental health and stressors come up, things get quiet,” Wade said. “They’re paying attention; there’s such a stigma about mental health. But I can see how stressed they are.”

At a recent wheat growers meeting, she said she talked with a farmer for half an hour about the financial stress he faced and his cousin’s death by suicide. She gave him informational resources and magnets with the suicide hotline number as well as her business card, adding she was available to talk anytime.

“Being able to admit he was struggling seemed like a huge relief for him,” Wade said. “He really needed to talk to someone. And I felt like I may have saved a life that day.”

Financial stress is one of the biggest factors in agriculture workers’ mental health. To directly address that topic, WSU Extension Economist Shannon Neibergs joined McMoran’s program to help.

“There can be incredible stress created by poor profitability and profit risks,” Neibergs said.

He and Extension Specialist Jon Driver are doing workshops to talk directly with farmers about record keeping, insurance programs, and management philosophies, then offering one-on-one financial management counseling for those who want more information.

Their goal is to conduct workshops across Washington. So far, they have talked with hay growers, cattle ranchers, and eastern Washington farmers and beginning farmers, with the hope of meeting with orchard growers in central Washington this fall and covering western Washington after that.
“It’s exciting to be able to provide this service,” Neibergs said. “Reducing growers’ fears and increasing their efficiency and providing cost of production tools can help address the needs of people at high risk for suicide attempts.”

Reminders: Care of Pets and Livestock During Heat Wave Events, and Emergency Preparedness Resources

Washington State has recently experienced weather that featured several days of high temperatures, as well as a continued lack of precipitation – and more hot weather is expected. The following articles, run in Tuesday News last summer, are being repeated here as a source of information and a reminder of resources available in the event of heat or emergency.

WSU Veterinarians: Keep Pets Cool This Heat Wave
By Josh Babcock, College of Veterinary Medicine
From WSU Insider – Original Publication Date, June 28, 2021

If you fear your pet may be experiencing any heat-related illness, WSU veterinarians urge you to seek immediate veterinary medical care.

PULLMAN, Wash.—The early-summer heat wave throughout the Pacific Northwest continues to create potentially dangerous conditions for pets, warn veterinarians at Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine.
And the hottest predicted temperatures across most of the region are yet to come.

“Dogs and cats do not sweat like humans,” said Raelynn Farnsworth, interim director of WSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital. “Instead, they pant and seek shade to eliminate excess heat. Pets do lose water through exhaled air, and that needs to be replenished with abundant, clean, free-choice drinking water. Free-choice meaning they can reach water at any time, even if they are in an enclosed space.”

Dr. Farnsworth said it is best to walk pets in the early morning and evening hours, but time outside should be minimal otherwise. Animals also should not be left in vehicles or tethered outside without shade or water. The interior of an automobile can reach temperatures approaching 200 degrees in a matter of minutes.

“Animals left in parked cars during summer heat can develop heat stroke in a very short period of time,” said Farnsworth. “People are best advised to not leave pets unattended in parked cars or similar enclosures during the summer heat at all, whether the windows are down, or not.”

Cracking open the car window is not a solution as it may not prevent the heat buildup or it may provide a way for the pet to escape. Parking in the shade may also seem like a temporary fix, but offers little protection when the sun shifts in the sky.

It is illegal to leave or confine any animal unattended in a motor vehicle or enclosed space if the animal could be harmed or killed by exposure to excessive heat, cold, lack of ventilation, or lack of necessary water. In addition to potential fines, the Washington state law also authorizes and protects animal control personnel and law enforcement officers who break into a vehicle or enclosed space to prevent harm to an animal. Egregious cases could result in animal cruelty charges.

Farnsworth said in the heat, owners need to cautious of hot pavement. “If it’s too hot to walk barefoot, it’s too hot for your pet’s feet.” She said to be especially sensitive to pets with special needs, including those that are old, overweight, or that have heart and lung disease. “Leave these animals at home and protected as much as possible,” she said.

A dehydrated or overheated pet may pant heavily, stagger, vomit, have diarrhea, seizures, or go into a coma. If you fear your pet may be experiencing any heat-related illness, WSU veterinarians urge you to seek immediate veterinary medical care.
A heat wave is expected to engulf much of the Inland Northwest over the next week with daytime temperatures above 100 degrees in many areas. These temperatures will put livestock and pet well-being at risk. Commercial producers and youth with animal projects should prepare now for the upcoming heat and dangerous conditions. Here are a few general suggestions to keep your animals safe, but also keep in mind each of the various species of domesticated animals will have specific needs.

- Avoid stressful handling of livestock and if necessary only do so in the early morning hours or late in the evening.
- If animals are in a barn or shed, ensure that they have proper ventilation and air circulation.
- For animals outside, provide shade if possible.
- Provide a continuous supply of cool, clean water.
Water is an important factor in allowing animals’ bodies to cool down and stay cool. Sufficient water is particularly important for animals that are lactating or pregnant to ensure health of the nursing young and health of offspring at birth. Watch for signs of dehydration (e.g. lethargy, drying of the mucous membranes and eyes, or eyes that appear sunken and dull). Clean water is also important: Note that excessive heat and stagnant water can promote blue-green algae growth which has shown to be toxic to livestock, wildlife, and humans. More information on blue-green algae can be found at https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/publications/livestock/cyanobacteria-poisoning-blue-green-algae.

The following table provides some insight into the amount of water and feed required by livestock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Amount of water/day</th>
<th>Amount of feed/day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lactating cows</td>
<td>20–25gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice hay, protein supplement to meet requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry cows</td>
<td>5–15 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating sow</td>
<td>3–7 gal/day</td>
<td>8 lb of grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry sow</td>
<td>3–6 gal/day</td>
<td>2 lb of grain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lactating ewe/doe</td>
<td>2.5–3 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice hay, protein supplement to meet requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry ewe/doe</td>
<td>1–2 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickens</td>
<td>1 gal/20 birds</td>
<td>3 lb of grain/20 birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horses</td>
<td>10–15 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice high quality hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbits</td>
<td>0.1–0.25 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice high quality hay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Llama/alpaca</td>
<td>2–5 gal/day</td>
<td>Free choice hay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Markwick (2002), Almond (1995), and FEMA (2013).

Remember that during times of heat stress, it may be necessary to reduce the energy intake (e.g. grains and concentrates) and increase fiber in the diets of animals such as 4-H steers and lambs to help mitigate heat stress. In addition, endophyte infected forages (e.g. fescue or other forages or crop residues
containing endophyte) should be avoided as they may exacerbate heat stress in cattle.

Heat stress can also be made worse by high humidity. Animals find it more difficult to cool during times of high humidity. In general, the Inland Northwest does not experience high humidity during the summer. However, west of the Cascade Range the marine environment is more prone to higher humidity. In addition, areas to the east of the Cascade Range with vast areas of irrigated farmland are an exception and can experience higher humidity.

During and following heat stress, watch for signs of respiratory disease and digestive disorders in livestock. Wide temperature swings between day and night (say 40 degrees or more) can predispose livestock to infection.

Finally, high temperatures with low humidity increase the likelihood of wildfires across our region. Have an emergency plan in place to guide you in times of high temperatures and also for disaster preparedness such as wildfires. If you need assistance navigating this heat wave please contact your WSU Extension Specialists, County Extension Educators, Extension Veterinarians, or your local veterinarian. Our animals depend on us!
WSU Extension Publication Details Mitigation of Livestock Heat Stress

Susan Kerr, DVM, PhD, WSU Livestock and Dairy Extension Specialist notes:

The things to focus on are shade, COOL WATER, and no activity. Ice water bottles great for small animals. If using sprinklers to cool off animals such as cattle, pigs, horses or goats (HA! good luck catching them for this), use just a few minutes of big drops of cool water, then let it evaporate— that is how they will discharge heat the best. You can repeat this every half hour or as needed.

A very detailed publication is available at https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/management-practices-to-mitigate-livestock-heat-stress; it may provide useful information.

Disaster Preparedness Fact Sheets Available Here!

Agencies and knowledgeable personnel are already predicting that we could have a terrible fire season this year. Are you prepared for fire or other disasters? These publications will help you, your family, communities be prepared for whatever natural disaster my strike. Thanks to Drs. Craig McConnel and Dale Moore for sharing these materials.

To view and/or download the fact sheet, click on the title below:

Ag Producer Safety During Wildfires
Establishing and Operating Animal Shelters
Establishing and Operating Disaster Information Centers
Forming and Engaging County Ag Response Teams
Disaster Go Bags
Livestock Handling During Disasters
Mitigating Impacts of Livestock Transportation Accidents
Practical Livestock Evacuation

Should an emergency strike, a handy publication that provides guidance on feeding large and small livestock can be found at the following link: Feeding Livestock In a Disaster
Rabbit Virus and Avian Influenza Updates From the State Veterinarian – WSDA
Pam Watson, M.Ed. – 4-H Faculty, WSU Lewis County Extension

Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease

The Washington State Department of Agriculture has provided an update on RHDV2. They have had two detections of the virus this year, both in single premises homes where all the rabbits perished (one in King County and one in Thurston County). The King County whole genomic sequencing indicated that it was the SW strain. The Thurston county case WGS results are pending. Individual infected sites are quarantined for 60 days. There are no detections in wild or feral domestic populations at this time in Washington State.

RHDV2 is now considered a stable endemic disease in the Western United States and there is a domestic vaccine now available for conditional use. More information on the virus, biosecurity recommendations, and the vaccine is available at: https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/animal-health/animal-diseases/rabbit-disease

Amber J Itle, VMD MS, Washington State Veterinarian, recommends all exhibitors vaccinate their rabbits.

New WSDA Self-reporting Health Status Survey for Your Flock

The WSDA (Washington State Department of Agriculture) has a new way for people in surveillance zones to self-report the health status of their flocks. Current active zones are in Jefferson and Snohomish Counties! If you search on their map and you are located in an active surveillance zone, you’ll have the opportunity to report on the health of your birds and request a consultation with a state vet on steps you can take to improve biosecurity in your flock. The searchable map can be found here: Washington State Avian Influenza Outbreak Map (arcgis.com)
Self-reporting can help the WSDA and the poultry industry in WA State get back to normal earlier than 30 days in the affected zones. There are just a couple of questions for you to answer on the e-form and it should take you 5 minutes or less to fill out the survey. Thank you for participating and supporting our avian health efforts in Washington State.

**Poultry and Fairs!**

Here are The WSDA is providing some new links and information specifically focused on fairs and education. They have also created some signage to support biosecurity and reporting efforts. For more information, click [Fairs | Washington State Department of Agriculture](https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza/bird-flu-2022).

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**Washington State Veterinarian Releases Letter Addressing Avian Influenza and Fairs Recommendations**

The WSDA strongly recommends temporarily suspending poultry shows, exhibitions, or swap meets until **30 days after the last detection of HPAI** in the state. Commingling birds from many farms is extremely high-risk for disease transmission and has potential to create a superspreader event.


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**AVIAN INFLUENZA UPDATES**

**Articles and Links**

**All About Avian Influenza**

If you have poultry or know someone who does, please read through this material and use the links as needed. Currently, the surveillance areas are for 10 kilometers/about 6.2 miles and for 30 days from the point of origin, current information at [https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza/bird-flu-2022](https://agr.wa.gov/departments/animals-livestock-and-pets/avian-health/avian-influenza/bird-flu-2022), you can see when and where there are confirmed cases around the state. This first one is the updated WSDA website it has the daily update and a brand-new interactive quarantine area map.
There is also a new map showing all of the positive locations in the U.S. As of May 17th, at 10 AM there are eight confirmed positive backyard flocks (small flocks), in eight different counties in the State of WA.

Fairs will make their own decisions but remember it is still early for most fairs to make a call on hosting poultry shows at county/community fairs and the surveillance is for 30 days. At this time, this is not a quarantine other than for the properties that have been depopulated.

Currently, migrations of wild waterfowl are the major mode/vector/fomite that is spreading Avian Influenza. However, attention to bio-security practices should be enhanced so that we (people) and our modes of transportation as well as other animals do not become fomites. There is MUCH more information below and many links to help answer your questions and a link to watch a recorded broadcast via YouTube with our WA State Veterinarian Dr. Amber Itle from 5/12/22.

Pam Watson, WSU Lewis County Extension 4-H and Poultry

**Avian Influenza in Washington State – What all bird owners should know and think about …**

Avian Influenza is in Washington State and since birds use a flyway and don’t stick to the freeways it should be considered everywhere. Be extra careful during wild bird migration seasons (spring and fall) particularly wild waterfowl, to protect your flock from infectious diseases. Where possible keep birds inside or undercover and check coops, pens, and poultry houses regularly for areas that allow wild birds to perch, nest, or interact with domesticated fowl. Learn more about biosecurity at: [bit.ly/DefendtheFlock-Resources](http://bit.ly/DefendtheFlock-Resources) (available in several languages).

Please report any unusual or high rates of illness or death in your flocks: WSDA Sick Bird Hotline at 1-800-606-3056.

For food safety questions, call WSDA Food Safety Program at 1-360-902-1876

Contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to report sick or dead wild birds [Report Wildlife Observations (arcgis.com)](http://arcgis.com)
AVIAN INFLUENZA – HOW POULTRY OWNERS CAN PROTECT THEIR FLOCK

Below is a recording of a 2021 WSDA webinar on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and steps poultry owners can take to protect their birds from this disease. In this webinar you will learn:

- What HPAI is and signs to look for in your flock
- How the global conditions are similar to the 2014/2015 outbreak of HPAI that reached Washington
- What effective biosecurity means and practical steps you can take to protect your flock
- Where to find additional resources about biosecurity
- When and how to report bird health issues, including suspected avian influenza

You can watch the avian influenza webinar on YouTube.

Pam Watson, M.Ed.
WSU Lewis County Extension
4-H Youth Development Agent, WSU Faculty

May 13, 2022 | Contact: State Veterinarian (360) 902-1878

Quick Links to HPAI Information in Washington
Dr. Amber Itle, Washington State Veterinarian
Good morning! With an all-hands-on-deck response effort at WSDA to contain HPAI, I’m having trouble getting these emails out to you all in a timely way. Please regularly check these resources for up-to-date information. You can join our WSDA bird flu Facebook group, watch pre-recorded YouTube videos, monitor our bird flu website and check our WSDA new release website for information about detections in new counties, as well as any guidance about shows and fairs. Please distribute widely. Don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns. Responses may be delayed, but we will get back to you as soon as we can.

**Washington Bird Flu Updates 2022 | Facebook**
**WA State Veterinarian Bird Flu Q and A**
**WSDA News Releases—**
**2022 Washington Bird Flu Detections**
**2022 Confirmations of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Commercial and Backyard Flocks**
**2022 Detections of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Wild Birds**

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**COVID-19 RESOURCES**

**4-H COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS**

**UPDATED MARCH 12, 2022**

Washington State University has adopted the Governor’s updated mask policy which is effective March 12, 2022. This policy eliminates the general masking requirement in both indoor and outdoor situations, unless specifically required for a particular location for health reasons (such as clinics). Also eliminated is the general requirement for social distancing among vaccinated individuals. WSU has extended the relaxation of the masking and distancing requirements to those employees who have exemptions from the vaccine requirement (for religious or medical reasons) and have approved accommodations at their workplace.

**WSU Extension has therefore adopted the following:**

**Vaccination Requirements Continue**

The vaccine mandate for WSU employees and volunteers remains in place. WSU employees and volunteers must be fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption with an accommodation on file to engage in work with WSU Extension.

**Masking Policy Changes**
WSU Extension has adopted the Governor’s mask policy effective March 12, 2022. This policy eliminates the general masking requirement in both indoor and outdoor situations, unless specifically required for a particular location such as health care settings and public transportation. This extends to individuals who have an approved accommodation based on a medical or religious exemption, who no longer are required to wear a mask as a condition of that accommodation.

Social Distancing Changes

WSU Extension applies the relaxation of social distancing requirements to those volunteers who are fully vaccinated or have an approved exemption with an accommodation (for religious or medical reasons) on file at their workplace or county office.

PLEASE NOTE – individual offices and locations may continue to require masking and/or distancing at the office level for all office programs in light of local risks and conditions.

GOVERNOR INSLEE’S VACCINATION PROCLAMATION
Announcement Revised September 7, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee issued a health and safety proclamation on August 20, 2021, in response to a continued state of emergency that exists in all counties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The health and safety proclamation, as ordered by the Governor, includes employees, contractors and volunteers engaged in activities with state agencies and in educational settings. Therefore, WSU (including WSU Extension and the 4-H program) is required to comply with Governor Inslee’s recent vaccination proclamation directives.

With regard to volunteers, below are a series of references, deadlines and explanations that provide further details.

- The Proclamation (21-14.1) can be found [HERE](#).
- Deadline: All current WSU Volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated or exempted by October 18th. Volunteers who are not fully vaccinated or who do not have an approved exemption on file by October 18 will be put on inactive status. They will not be able to engage in any volunteer activities with WSU Extension until proof of full vaccination can be observed or until an exemption request has been reviewed.
- Proof of vaccination: Contact your local 4-H office for information on how to share proof of your vaccination status.
- **Exemption process:** The state-level exemption process (for religious or medical reasons) can be found at https://extension.wsu.edu/volunteer-exemption/

More information on WSU’s Vaccination Policy is available on the web at https://extension.wsu.edu/vaccination-policy/.

Questions regarding WSU’s Vaccination Policy can be directed via e-mail to extension.vaccinepolicy@wsu.edu

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**A Reminder: COVID-19 Resources Available from WSU Extension**

The WSU Extension COVID-19 Updates and Resources page is updated as new information becomes available. The Link to the page is https://extension.wsu.edu/covid-19/

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**WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS: Caring for Your Family During COVID-19**

The Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families has created a resource for parents during COVID-19. The WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCE GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS: Caring for Your Family During COVID-19 was developed to help parents and their families navigate the pandemic and the days to follow.

The publication is available at https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/FS_0039.pdf