



January 29, 2022

Hello, Snohomish County 4-H Community!

COVID-19 cases in our county are still extremely high, and we have had multiple potential close contacts at 4-H in-person meetings in recent weeks. WSU has issued a new policy that may affect some of your plans.

FOOD and DRINK may no longer be provided at any 4-H/WSU event. This is to eliminate any reason someone might have for removing their face covering.

Furthermore, WSU also recommends that masks be upgraded whenever possible to N-95, KN-95 or N-94 types, or even procedural/surgical masks. Cloth masks are still allowed, but as it has been shown they are significantly less effective against the Omicron variant, they are not recommended.

We have a small supply of N-95 (adult size) and surgical style masks (youth and adult sizes). Please contact our office if you are having a meeting in person and need masks. We are working on procuring a larger supply, but for now, please request these masks if your participants have problems finding masks, or if you are working on a project that requires in-person meetings indoors.

Please refer to the [January 15<sup>th</sup>](#) update for a refresher on current requirements. Very important are the following:

- A sign-in sheet is required and must include email and phone numbers for all who attended (including guests and observers). Without this, we cannot reach those in attendance if they were exposed to COVID-19.
- If someone who attended your event tests positive for COVID-19, please **contact Ashley immediately**. We are now eliciting the help of club leaders to contact members and health department, as we are not always able to facilitate this as quickly as is needed.

Please consider the following recommendations from our office as well:

- We highly **recommend** that all clubs and programs **suspend in-person meeting** for the next few weeks. We will update again on February 12<sup>th</sup>, if not before. If you can meet virtually, please do so. If meeting virtually is not feasible for your project, we recommend delaying the project/event or meet outdoors only.
- If meeting in-person, reminders about masking should be done at the beginning of each meeting, via email before meetings, on social media, and in any other method that is useful for your group. We recommend masks at all times, inside or outside, even when 6' of distance can be maintained. This will reduce the chance of improper mask wearing as members move about.

Thank you for continuing to provide opportunities for your youth and communities. Please contact us with any questions.

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HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH