



March 11, 2022

Hello, Snohomish County 4-H Community!

We have updated information for you about COVID-19 protocols. In short, WSU 4-H will be following the same guidelines that were announced by [Governor Jay Inslee](#).

**The following is changing/has changed:**

- There is no longer a restriction on serving food at 4-H events.
- Masks will no longer be **required** at 4-H in-person events starting tomorrow, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**What hasn't changed:**

- The vaccine mandate for volunteers is still in effect – all 4-H volunteers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file before they can volunteer.
- Everyone is still required to stay home when they are sick. Please refer to the [WA DOH website](#) for information about isolation and quarantine for COVID-19.
- [CDC is still recommending](#) physical distancing for anyone who is not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, or for those who are at higher risk of severe illness.

In a nutshell, the lifting of the statewide mask mandate *does* apply to 4-H. Our Snohomish County medical officer, Dr. Chris Spitters, announced this week that masks continue to be recommended in school and child-care settings, which are comparable to the 4-H environment (recommended, but not required). This is in light of the vaccination rates among youth in our county: Among 5-11-year-olds, 35% are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Among 12-17-year-olds, that number is 60%.

**A note about 4-H and Belonging and Inclusion:**

Some members of some groups may not feel safe (or even *be* safe) to engage with a group of unmasked individuals at this time. In 4-H we have a commitment to ensuring that each youth feels a sense of belonging, which includes both physical and emotional safety.

To that end, please maintain open communication within your clubs about what each person needs to feel and be safe. If additional supplies would help to meet this need, **let us know**.

Skirted face shields are one example of something we can help to provide. Your club may have

other ideas that require funding or assistance. If you or someone you know is anxious about their own participation in 4-H events going forward, please come into our [Virtual Office Hours](#) or call or email one of us to discuss. Our hope is that we can help everyone through this transition and help groups ensure that everyone feels safe and has a positive 4-H experience.



Thank you for continuing to provide opportunities for your youth and communities. We will provide updates to procedures as we get them. Please contact us with any questions.

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HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH