



May 20, 2022

Hello, Snohomish County 4-H Community!

We have updated information for you about COVID-19 protocols.

The following is changing/has changed:

- The guidance for people who have been exposed to COVID-19 is now the same for those who are not up to date on their vaccine doses as for those who are not vaccinated at all. Being “up to date” means that you’ve received initial does(s) and, if eligible, an initial booster dose. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>
- If you have been exposed, tested positive, or have symptoms, WSU has turned the CDC’s guidance into an easy Qualtrics tool that shows you what to do: https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eWcZzzBDONJaMNo
- Our county health officer announced on May 3rd that we are now at the MEDIUM risk level, because our case rates are up (>200 per 100,000 residents) and hospitalizations are increasing, too. Dr. Spitters urges everyone to resume precautionary measures on a voluntary basis. This includes taking activities outside when possible and masking in public indoor spaces, as well as getting up to date on vaccinations and staying home when symptomatic.

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.
- Meeting/activity/event leaders still need to keep a record of all humans in attendance, so that notification can be made of potential exposures.
- [CDC is still recommending](#) physical distancing for anyone who is not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, especially for those who are at higher risk of severe illness. 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.

A reminder 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.

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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