Good Morning Everyone,

We have good news! Please see Mike Gaffney’s announcement below.  All counties are moving to phase 3 on March 22, all in-person plans submitted for approval are approved as of today (if they meet the 15 participant and 2 adult group levels and safety protocols), and all new in-person plans will be approved by your County Director. We will be following the attached guidance documents from Governor Inslee’s office on Agricultural Events during COVID19, the DOH’s Youth Development guidance, as well as recommendations by WSU Health and Safety. For 4-H, WSU has expanded the group size to be 15 youth participants plus two adults (Extension personnel and/or certified volunteers). If the event is anticipating larger numbers, please consider staggered participation or “shift” scheduling to stay within limits.

As always, all safety protocols must be followed and any activity which can be accomplished at a distance should be. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Friday!

Nancy

Nancy C. Deringer, PhD, AFC®

Associate Professor

State Director, 4-H Youth Development

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Good morning;

On March 11th Governor Inslee announced that all regions/counties in Washington will move to a new Roadmap Phase 3, effective March 22nd.  This will undoubtedly provide a mechanism to significantly expand our in-person activities.  Unfortunately, no specific guidance except with regards to sporting events, businesses, restaurants and recreational venues has yet been issued.  In light of the shift statewide to Phase 3, in response to the many requests we’ve received, and in anticipation of additional guidance, attached please find updated planning documents, all effective for planning purposes immediately.

* In-Person Extension Activity Plan (General)
* In-Person Extension Activity Plan 4-H
* In-Person Activity Plan Master Gardener

*NOTE that these will likely be replaced in the very near future with updated versions reflecting anticipated new specific guidance from the Governor’s office.*

Also attached (or linked) are supporting reference documents:

* WSU EH&S (<https://ehs.wsu.edu/public-health/distancing-and-disinfection-plan/>
* Washington DOH “Child Care, Youth Development, and Day Camps During the COVID-19 Outbreak”
* Governor Inslee’s “Agricultural Events COVID-19 Requirements”

Working from those documents, activities under regional Phase 3 which provide for all Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention protocols may include up to 15 individuals from outside a single household, not counting responsible Extension participants in any meeting, training or other event. Master Gardener walk-up clinic events are not subject to this limit.  Resumption of any in-person activity must be consistent with these planning guidelines as evidenced by the appropriate Plan form routed through the County Director for review & endorsement, then to Mike Gaffney and Vicki McCracken for documentation.  The emphasis in any proposed resumption of in-person activities must be on safety, with reference to specific DOH guidance for “Child Care, Youth Development, and Day Camps During the COVID-19 Outbreak”  and the Governor’s “Agricultural Event Guidance” as well as the guidance issued by WSU Environmental Health and Safety.  Any activity which can be accomplished at a distance should be.

All activities for which a plan consistent with these guidelines is on file with Extension Administration should be considered approved unless notified otherwise at least 10 days prior to the event or activity.  These guidelines apply statewide so long as all regions/counties are in Roadmap Phase 3.

Please feel free to share this, and please let me know if you have questions.  Plans previously submitted for approval under superseded guidelines should be considered approved at the new group levels effective today, March 12, 2021.

Mike

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