



October 16, 2020

Hello Snohomish 4-H community,

We wish we could give you a more definite update, but our WSU leadership along with a committee made up of faculty and staff from around the state, are still working hard on how to move forward with in-person 4-H in a safe and healthy way. **For now, we are not meeting in person, only virtually.** Please remember, we are open (though virtually), still working hard (again, virtually), and are willing to help you connect with your club or family members! Visit our [Stay Home, Stay Healthy](#) page for updates and to take a peek at what other 4-Hers around the county are doing at home. If you feel inspired, send us your screenshots and snapshots so we can include them as well.

We have been chatting with many of you on the phone as well as talking in meetings, and we wanted to put those updates in writing here for you to refer back to. First, our state leaders do have a plan for how to allow in-person activities for very small groups (5 or less), in limited circumstances (if possible, virtual is the go-to). That is a great first step! However, implementation of that plan will take just a little more time to figure out, so we are once again asking for your patience and understanding. We realize you are all missing meeting in person and holding 4-H events, and we realize that there has been some serious challenges for many in our 4-H family related to this prolonged disconnect. Please continue to do what you are doing, connecting with each other as much as possible virtually, and keep those masks up! We will get through this and move forward when it is safe for us to do so.

As we continue to talk about moving forward, county health data and experts, as well as COVID-19 case counts, will be used to constantly re-evaluate the safety of any plans. If cases rise to a level that warrant a step back, meeting in-person, even in small groups, will discontinue. Again, 4-H recognizes how much we all miss meeting in person, but health and safety are our top priorities. This is not meant to discourage, only to inform you on how we make these difficult decisions.

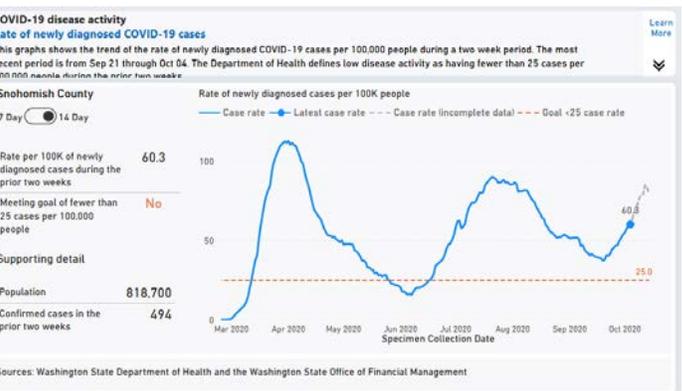
If you are interested, please view the WA [COVID-19 Risk Assessment dashboards](#) to keep an eye on statewide stats. I have taken a screenshot of our Snohomish County disease activity as of today (10/16/2020). This rise in cases is concerning and may impact any plans we have in the works to start to ease participation restrictions.

I have said it before, and will say it again, we are all in this together. Please stay safe, stay healthy, and continue to connect in any way that is safe. I leave you today with this quote from Marilyn vos Savant: "Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent." 4-H will meet in person again; it just might take a little longer.

As always, stay safe, stay healthy, and we appreciate all that you do.

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