



July 28, 2021

Hello, Snohomish County 4-H Community!

We last issued updated COVID-19 protocols for Snohomish County 4-H on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, case rates are on the rise, and with them recommendations and guidance for face coverings are increasing at state and county levels. There have been instances in other WA counties of 4-H participants testing positive for COVID after having recently attended a 4-H event. We want to ensure we take enough precautions to continue to be able to authorize in-person activities.

**The protocols issued on July 8<sup>th</sup> remain in force, AT 4-H EVENTS with one very important change, which is highlighted below. Note: 4-H events are those that 4-H organizes, as distinct from those events that 4-H attends as participants, such as the Evergreen State Fair.**

- **Group size limits** are no longer in effect. Cohorts are still encouraged whenever unvaccinated individuals are present.
- **Written proposals and orientation** for in-person activities are no longer required.
- **Face coverings:**
  - **INDOORS:** Face coverings are required for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. This is consistent with our county's recommendations and the state DOH guidance for youth-focused settings.
    - Unvaccinated individuals undertaking normal breathing (i.e. not singing or exercising) should still distance at least three feet while indoors and masked.
  - **OUTDOORS:** If six feet of distance cannot be maintained and unvaccinated individuals are present, *everyone*, regardless of vaccination status, is encouraged to wear a face covering in order to foster an inclusive environment and sense of belonging, and to model the behavior. Unvaccinated individuals in crowded outdoor settings are *very* strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.
    - Anyone who chooses to wear a face covering, even when it is not required, should be supported in doing so.
  - Check out the handy WA Ready guide, "[When do you need your mask?](#)" for additional clarification.
- **Health screening attestations** no longer need to be collected, but **attendance** must be recorded and [signage](#) must be posted requiring all attendees to be free of COVID-19 symptoms, diagnosis, and exposure.
- **Outdoor gatherings** are still preferred over indoor gatherings, whenever feasible. Indoor gathering spaces should have as much ventilation as possible.
- **Food** may be served outdoors. Unvaccinated participants must maintain 6-ft distancing while eating. Serve food on individual plates, rather than family- or buffet-style.
- **High touch surfaces** should still be sanitized frequently.
- **Hand washing and sanitizing** should still be done frequently.
- Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosis, or who has been exposed to COVID-19 while not fully vaccinated, **must stay home.**

We appreciate everyone's continued patience as we wait for the day masks are no longer required for anyone.

If you have any questions or need clarification, we're happy to talk with you any time. We also continue to offer virtual office hours on Mondays, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Friday's virtual office hours will resume on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Join us: [Virtual Office Hours](#)

Thank you for all that you do for your community!

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HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH