



January 15, 2022

Hello, Snohomish County 4-H Community!

We have seen a very large uptick in COVID cases in our county, and we have had multiple potential close contacts at 4-H in-person meetings in recent weeks. As such, we are writing to clarify COVID-19 protocol at in-person meetings. The COVID-19 protocols provided [July 28, 2021](#) are the most current guidelines for 4-H. Very important are the following:

- Masks have to be worn in buildings, regardless of vaccination status. If a distance of 6' or more cannot be maintained, masks must also be worn outside.
- Signage must be posted requiring all attendees to be free of COVID-19 symptoms, diagnosis, and exposure. Request signs via email or phone from any 4-H staff (see contact information below).
- A sign-in sheet is required and must include email and phone numbers for all who attended (including guests and observers). Without this, we cannot reach those in attendance if they were exposed to COVID-19.
- If someone who attended your event tests positive for COVID-19, please **contact Ashley immediately** and provide the attendance information. She will contact all who were in attendance and will initiate a contact tracing process with the health district.
- Previous guidance allowed for food being served outdoors, however, we are now asking that any food at meetings be paused until further notice. Food at indoor events is not allowed.
- High touch surfaces should still be sanitized frequently, hand washing and sanitizing should be done frequently, and anyone who is symptomatic needs to stay home.

While official guidelines have not changed, please consider the following recommendations from our office as well as mask recommendations from WSU Extension:

- We highly **recommend** that all clubs and programs **suspend in-person meeting** for now. If you can meet virtually, please do so. If meeting virtually is not feasible for your project, we recommend delaying the project/event or meet outdoors only.
- If meeting in-person, reminders about masking should be done at the beginning of each meeting, via email before meetings, on social media, and in any other method that is useful for your group. We recommend masks at all times, inside or outside, even when 6' of distance can be maintained. This will reduce the chance of improper mask wearing as members move about.
- From WSU Extension: "Over the past week the CDC, Governor Inslee, and WSU have all addressed the far greater contagion risk posed by the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Among the updates are a finding that cloth masks are not as effective against Omicron as they have been against other variants. The recommendation is now to wear three-layer "surgical" masks or (K)N95 masks rather than cloth. This is not, at this time, a requirement. It is simply a recommendation."

Thank you for continuing to provide opportunities for your youth and communities. Please contact us with any questions.

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HEAD

HEART

HANDS

HEALTH