



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & EXTENSION

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Youth Development Programs



May 26, 2021

Dear 4-H Families,

We hope this spring has been good for you and yours. We would like to start out by thanking all of you for continuing to be a part of the Cooperative Extension 4-H and FFA Youth Development Program. We know that this past year has been challenging and you have demonstrated resiliency in your efforts!

As we move forward into the summer, we have been working diligently with the UAF Chancellor's Mitigation Team to navigate the challenges the pandemic has brought to our youth development programs. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is in Phase C of The UA Phases Covid-19 Plan ([Full Description of UA Phases Here](#)) and our mitigation plan has been updated to reflect new policies.

We want to emphasize that the health and well-being of our youth, their families and our 4-H/FFA staff and volunteers is our priority. While we are excited to have fewer restrictions for face-to-face activities, we understand that meeting in person might not be ideal for everyone at this time. We will continue to provide 4-H activities and meet ups online as well and we encourage you to utilize 4-H as a resource in helping to maintain a balance of summer activities for the youth in your families.

If you are choosing to engage your child in face-to-face activities with your local 4-H clubs and groups, please know that the following guidelines will be met by 4-H volunteers & staff:

-All staff and volunteers MUST be familiar with the COVID-19 Phase C policies found on the 4-H website:
<http://www.alaska4h.org/>

-Parents/guardians should read over the policies as well

-All staff and volunteers will read and complete the COVID-19 mitigation form and agree to guidelines and stipulations. These include:

Before Program:

-Ensure that there are only a maximum 20 participants per group attending (this includes all active participants, adults as well) and that room capacity will be no more than 50%.

-Communicate with parents/guardians the importance of keeping youth home if sick and may return after 72 hours of symptom free.

-Notify parents/guardians that they will be required to answer screening questions at drop-off.

-Ensure ample supplies for each participant for given activity (NO SHARING).

-Ensure ample cleaning and disinfecting supplies are on hand.

-Ensure extra face coverings are available for participants.

During Program:

- Have each participant complete a screening/attendance questionnaire when dropped off BEFORE entering space or joining the group.
- Ensure face coverings are being worn by all staff and participants who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 and that social distancing practices are in place.
- Have participants wash hands upon entry and frequently throughout the program. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Explain health guidelines at the start of each meeting in an appropriate manner.
- If youth become symptomatic during a program, have an isolated place where they can wait to be picked up and notify parent/guardian.
- Ensure no sharing of equipment
- Food and drink should not be shared between participants.

After Program Meeting

- Send screening/attendance questionnaire for to your district agent
- Clean and disinfect all common surfaces with Clorox wipes or equivalent disinfectant.

Again, we cannot express the importance of keeping our youth, families and staff safe and healthy. Our mitigation plan also outlines procedures for exposure response and follow up in the case of exposure. In the case of a positive COVID-19 testing of staff, volunteers or participants, personal information will only be shared with public health in your area. You will be notified by 4-H staff if there is an exposure incident and given further instructions.

We know these continue to be challenging times and conditions, but we also know the importance of youth being able to engage in positive activities with their peers and mentor/volunteers in person. We hope to provide a safe environment for everyone and to continue to keep everyone as safe as possible by following these guidelines.

Please don't hesitate to send your comments, concerns and questions. Also, we will be sending a parent/guardian survey after the first couple of weeks to ensure we are meeting your expectations and needs for maintaining a safe environment for face-to-face activities.

Sincerely,



Candi Dierenfield, PhD Ed
4-H and Youth Development State Program Leader