



# INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & EXTENSION

University of Alaska Fairbanks  
Youth Development Programs



August 10, 2021

Dear 4-H Families,

We hope this summer has been a good one so far! We would like to thank you all – again - for continuing to be a part of the Cooperative Extension 4-H and FFA Youth Development Program. We know that this past year has provided many challenges and you continue to demonstrate resilience and grit in your efforts!

As we move forward into the late summer and back-to-school, we continue to work diligently with our UAF Risk Management team to navigate the challenges the pandemic has brought to our youth development programs. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is still 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 due to the recent increase of the COVID-19 variant.

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 continue to have fewer restrictions for face-to-face activities, we understand that meeting in person still 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/FFA 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:**

- 100% mask wearing, regardless of vaccination status when indoors, as well as outdoors when 6' social distancing can not be maintained, during all 4-H/FFA activities.
- 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, and continue to check back for updates.

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. We want to ensure we are meeting your expectations and needs for maintaining a safe environment for face-to-face activities.

Sincerely,



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4-H and Youth Development State Program Leader

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