



August 17, 2020

Dear 4-H Families,

We hope this summer has been good for you and yours. Things are different, we know, and navigating the changes and differences in how we move about our world in these difficult times can be challenging. We hope that you have found time to get out into our beautiful state this summer! We are fortunate to be able to share such an amazing “backyard!”

As we move forward into the school year, we here at Alaska 4-H, have been working very hard to bring back our Face to Face activities, state-wide. The University of Alaska (and 4-H) is in Phase B of The UA Phases Covid-19 Plan ([Full Description of UA Phases Here](#)) and our mitigation plan has been approved for Face to Face activities. We are happy to announce that we are prepared to offer face to face activities starting at the end of the month!

We want to emphasize that the health and well-being of our youth, their families and our 4-H staff and volunteers is our priority. While we are excited to get back to 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 this fall in helping to maintain a balanced school day for the students 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 complete the COVID-19 Phase B Training.

The flyer is green with white and yellow text. At the top left is the UAF logo with the text 'UAF For Youth COOPERATIVE EXTENSION UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS'. To its right is the text 'REQUIRED 4-H LEADER TRAINING' and a white 4-H clover logo. The main title is 'COVID-19 Phase B Operations'. Below this, it lists three training sessions: Monday, August 17, 7-8PM on Zoom (https://alaska.zoom.us/j/94343815385); Wednesday, August 19, 12-1PM on Zoom (https://alaska.zoom.us/j/96842883133); and Friday, August 21, 9-10AM on Zoom (https://alaska.zoom.us/j/94005648298). A small box on the right says 'Contact your Alaska 4-H district office for the passcode'. At the bottom, there is a small disclaimer: 'UAF is an AA/EO certified and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual. www.alaska.edu/aa-eo-statement'

-Parents/guardians are welcomed to attend the training 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 10 participants per group attending (this includes all active participants, adults as well) and that building capacity will be no more than 25%.
- 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.
- Hold meetings outside if possible and not in a private home if taking place inside.
- 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 and that social distancing practices are in place.
- Have participants wash hands upon entry and on an hourly basis. Supervise youth to ensure hands are washed with soap and water for 20 seconds. 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!
- Will NOT serve food or drink (participants can bring water bottles and snacks from home).

After Program Meeting

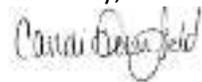
- Send screening/attendance questionnaire for to your district agent
- Clean and disinfect all common surfaces with Clorox wipes or equivalent disinfectant.

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.

Again, we know these are 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
Interim 4-H and Youth Development State Program Leader

**UAF Youth Development
Programs Office**

P.O. Box 756180
Fairbanks AK 99775

Phone 907-474-1909
Fax 907-474-5139

E-mail cldierenfield@alaska.edu
Web <http://alaska4h.org>

The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and an educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/titleIXcompliance/nondiscrimination