Vermont has come a long way since March of 2020. On June 14, 2021, Vermont surpassed an 80% vaccination rate, propelling Governor Scott to lift remaining COVID health restrictions. This move eliminated the sector specific guidance provided for youth programs. Given that Vermont 4-H is a youth serving organization and that a large percent of our population do not yet have access to a vaccine, we will still implement some restrictions to ensure everyone who wants to participate safely and equitably, can. We appreciate your patience, compassion and support. As you read through our revised protocols, please know that we fully support personal choice and encourage virtual opportunities when they make sense. It will take time for people to feel comfortable interacting around others, in different environments.

These directions are in place through September 30. If circumstances change between now and then, we will revisit our directions and restrictions at that time.

4-H Club Volunteer Instructions -

1 – Read through the 4-H Club Safety Guidelines document and Resumption of Activity Plan, along with other supporting documents, to understand what is expected for 4-H clubs.

3 – For clubs that have not submit a safety plan since the Fall of 2020 - Work as a team (club volunteers) to complete the club safety plan form [http://go.uvm.edu/clubplan](http://go.uvm.edu/clubplan) that is required ahead of resuming activities and that requires approval. Think through where you can meet, when, etc...your usual go to locations may be off-limits and not open to public groups.

4 – Submit the club safety plan for approval; 4-H staff will be in touch to let you know that your club is good to resume activity. That information can be emailed to sarah.kleinman@uvm.edu or mailed to 140 Kennedy Dr Ste 201, S Burlington, VT 05403. If there are special situations, please include that explanation.

5 – Ensure all participants (youth and adult volunteers) are enrolled in 4honline. Registration now includes covid related liability language. Those who do not sign will not be allowed to participate in person and may hold up the approval. Be clear and note if some club members (or volunteers) do not intend on rejoining in person activity right now.

6- If your club or committee is planning on hosting an event beyond just your club, an Event Plan must be submitted 30 days prior.

7 – Once you are given permission the State 4-H office to resume activities, you may begin safely! Hold on to your sign in sheets if you use the hard copy forms, as contact tracing may be necessary.

8 - Failure to comply (regular health screens/sign in sheets, adherence to plan, etc)...will result in program interruption.
4-H, Family and Farmworker Guidelines for COVID-19 Prevention
Version 6 – updated August 2021 (updates in red)

These guidelines are for volunteers and staff in UVM 4-H, Family and Farmworker Programs. Any activity necessitates the use of the following by UVM Extension staff, volunteers, and participants:

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status or age, must mask in indoor settings. (masks are not required for outdoor activities but are encouraged in crowded spaces. Barns and buildings with wide-open large doors are considered outdoors).
- Practicing physical distancing indoors, especially for unvaccinated individuals.
- Collecting names of participants
- Not being allowed to participate due to current or recent health status

We appreciate everyone’s tolerance and patience as navigate our way out of this pandemic. We know that Vermont is in a great place and remains one of the healthiest states in the country. We are committed to providing equitable opportunity to participate and do not want to put up barriers to participating. Until youth under the age of 12 have the choice of a vaccine, we will continue to do our part to keep them safe, which includes masking for everyone when indoors. Physical distancing is also encouraged indoors. This practice will be reviewed September 1 or earlier, if a vaccine becomes available before then.

Please also note the following expectations to reduce potential COVID-19 transmission:

- Activities being planned for more than just a club or a mentor/mentee must submit the 4-H Event Planning Document and Approval Request Form 30 days prior to event. (Form is on the Leader Resources page under the COVID-19 Planning Documents)
- Overnight/residential programs are discouraged but not prohibited; an event plan needs to be submitted to ensure adherence to sector specific guidance for overnight experiences.
- If driving is necessary, driver and passengers shall be from the same household when possible. If that is not possible, limit passengers to no more than 2 adults, or one adult and 2 youth per vehicle. Keep car windows open if passengers are under age of 12.
- If buses are used and include youth under the age of 12, their capacity will be determined by the 3-6ft distancing requirement and face coverings will be used at all times. A seating chart must be kept.
### In-Person Club Activity Safety Practices Check List

#### Before a Meetings, Events or Activities

- Communicate with attendees in advance of in-person activities describing standards or practices that may be required of them to participate. This might include facemasks if indoors and includes youth under the age of 12.

- Inform all possible participants to stay home if they are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19 or have had known contact with anyone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

- Using the following online form for each gathering at [http://go.uvm.edu/4hscreen](http://go.uvm.edu/4hscreen). A PDF version is also available on the Leader Resources page to print out a hard copy. This form will walk each participant through the following symptoms:
  - Inform participants to not attend if they answer “yes” to having any of the following COVID-19 symptoms and to engage virtually instead:
    1. Fever (100.4 °F or higher) or feel feverish?
    2. Chills?
    3. A new or worsening cough not caused by another health condition?
    4. Sore throat?
    5. New or worsening difficulty breathing not caused by another health condition?
    6. New or worsening muscle aches not caused by another health condition?
    7. New or worsening headache that is not normal for them and not caused by another health condition?
    8. New loss of sense of taste or smell?

    **Note:** If “yes” to any of the above, politely ask them not to attend or participate in the meeting/activity and to contact a healthcare provider.

- Create and prepare any signs or documents that will be used at the event communicating procedures like, checking in, information for parents, expected times.

- Determine if, and use, a registration process is needed for the activity. You might consider if you want to know about any accommodations for those with physical, mental, or emotional challenges to participate.

- Encourage participants to eat ahead of time; food is discouraged. If food is a must, participants should bring their own or items are individually packaged and sharing is not permitted.
### Upon Arrival at Activity Location

Ensure that sanitizing solutions contain 70% alcohol or are EPA registered as effective against viruses. Either wipe down all common surfaces as recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or use tablecloths to cover the tables. Common surfaces include tables, counters, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, chairs, etc. Cleaning supplies for programming will be supplied by volunteers and clubs. If you have difficulty sourcing these items, please contact your county educator to discuss.

A designated health monitor should facilitate a “check-in” process for participants. Either have all attendees go this link to sign in [http://go.uvm.edu/4hscreen](http://go.uvm.edu/4hscreen) or use the paper copy form to write down all names and the date of attendance and ask them whether their health is normal (see symptoms identified above in the “before the meeting” section). Be sure to collect phone and email for any guest that is not in 4-H Online or other registration system. Remember that all members should be actively enrolled in 4-H Online to participate in any 4-H activities.

### During the Activity

**Face coverings are required for all activity, for staff, volunteers and participants, indoors.** If there is a health related concern to using a face covering, that should be discussed with the supervisor or person in charge.

It will be expected that all staff, volunteers, and participants bring their own face coverings. That said disposable facemasks should be provided by volunteers to hand out in case someone does not have or forgot a mask.

When possible, refrain from using shared equipment or materials. Ensure a cleaning/disinfection protocol is in place and followed if any type of equipment is used. This may require planning of sanitizing equipment between uses, involving other adults, teens, or parents to assist in sanitizing of equipment. Wipe down all equipment between uses by participants (firearms, targets, clippers, sewing machines, tools, cameras, etc.). Cleaning supplies for programming will be supplied by volunteers and clubs. If you have difficulty sourcing these items, please contact your county educator to discuss. Waiting a few minutes after each sanitizing/disinfecting of each piece of equipment between uses is preferred.