As we begin to cautiously resume in-person, small-scale 4-H club activities, please deeply consider the purpose of the activity and whether the outcome can be achieved in other ways. Could some things continue on virtually? Business or planning meetings, perhaps? We know that building a sense of belonging, social-emotional skills, and some project knowledge is hard to do via technology – those activities might take precedent for in-person engagement in an effort to reduce or limit the amount of time you spend together. As you read through our protocols, please know that just because you can begin to engage in-person, does not mean you must. Please consider everyone in your club and think about equity as you build your plans – how can everyone participate safely? Please be sure to treat everyone with compassion and flexibility and consider allowing for participation virtually, even if that means a hybrid approach to your club.

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. Changes since the Fall of 2020 include gathering limit of 12 participants and outdoor only activities.

2 – Compete the VOSHA training if you have not yet done this; completion certificate will be required when the club is ready to submit their safety plan ahead of activity resumption. http://labor.vermont.gov/vosha

3 – For clubs that did not submit a plan in the Fall of 2020 - Work as a team (club volunteers) to complete the club safety plan form (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. Determine what supplies you might need and whether the club can procure them or if you will need help. (If your club did submit in the fall, please email sarah.kleinman@uvm.edu to share where your outdoor meeting location will be and anticipated meeting/activity dates)

4 – Submit the club safety plan for approval along with volunteer VOSHA certificates, calendar of meetings dates through to June 2021 (including location and assigned health monitor); 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. The plan will not be approved until all volunteers associated with the club send in their certificates. 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 – Once you are given permission the State 4-H office to resume activities, you may begin safely! Please keep your county office updated on changes to your calendar. Hold on to your sign in sheets if you use the hard copy forms, as contact tracing may be necessary.

7 - Failure to comply (regular health screens, adherence to plan, no masks, etc)...will result in program interruption.