

COVID-19 FAQs for OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development

Updated March 26, 2020, 3 p.m.

This information will continue to be updated as the situation evolves. Refer to information from Interim Extension Director Jackie Kirby Wilkins with additional FAQs. This also includes CFAES information shared from Dean Cathann Kress. Dates below are subject to change.

General Information

- Please excuse any youth who chooses not to attend events or programs
- For other entities who are hosting an activity, employees can attend based on your comfort level with participating in midst of the health concerns cited by the Ohio Department of Health recommendations.
- If connectivity is a challenge for a family or your area of the state, please consider cancelling or postponing meetings/events. See #1.
- Nothing new should be scheduled or rescheduled until after April 20, unless you can offer it virtually.
- NOTE: One of the best ways to prevent the spread of viral illnesses is to minimize the circumstances in which individuals might interact and transmit the disease.

1. The following are considered mission-critical, but must be conducted virtually until after May 15:

- Volunteer training: New volunteer training and policy 1.50 training. If there are connectivity challenges, make arrangements for individual instruction.

2. Essential activities scheduled prior to March 30 should be cancelled, held virtually, or rescheduled for May 15 or later.

3. Essential activities already scheduled from **March 31 through May 15** may continue as planned. However, evolving situations may require them to be cancelled, held virtually, or rescheduled. Stay tuned for updates. Currently, essential activities include:

- Camp counselors (both day and overnight training)
- Quality Assurance
- Make accommodations for honor club status and other recognition or awards for missed meetings and events.
- Junior fair board education and training focused on fair implementation
- School programs: (ChickQuest, Real Money, Real World, afterschool programs, etc.) Finish the week of activities (or the program if it already started the process). Talk to the school to make alternative arrangements for the rest of the month (e.g., Zoom).
 - o NOTE: If possible, in April, continue to offer as many activities virtually as possible.

Given the current COVID-19 confirmed cases in Ohio, we are following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio Department of Health, and the university in being aggressively proactive to prevent the potential spread of communicable respiratory illness.



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4. The following list of 4-H events qualify as non-essential between now and May 15. Based on these guidelines, these non-essential activities must be postponed / cancelled / held virtually. Examples include (this list is not exhaustive and subject to change at any notice):

4-H committees, including advisory, saddle horse, endowment, etc.

NOTE: Senior Fair Boards will need to make the determination for fair-related committees.

- Club kick-offs, open houses, etc.
- Club meetings, including Community, Cloverbud and SPIN
 - NOTE: Clubs will still need to account for the minimum of six club meetings for 2020
- Community service projects
- Countywide Cloverbud events
- Educational clinics
- Events put on by advisory or county committees or clubs, including fundraisers
- School programs that have not started (ChickQuest, Real Money, Real World, afterschool programs, etc.)
- Skillathons not part of Quality Assurance
- Social events (egg hunts, square dances)
- Teen leader groups

Other Considerations

- **Camps:** Hannah has a virtual meeting scheduled with camp facility managers March 12. We will share Ohio State's approach with them; they should follow similar practices. OSU Extension 4-H groups will follow the practice of not meeting in-person until at least May 15. Outside groups can choose to continue with their plans as scheduled or not.
- **Enrollment deadlines for 4-H membership:** Message to send to members and volunteers, "XX is the deadline for our county. If you have challenges with this, please contact the Extension office for accommodations."
 - Please consider extenuating circumstances and allow for late enrollments.
 - NOTE: Senior Fair Boards will make determinations for Junior Fair deadlines.
- **International program:** We will not be sending outbound youth. Refer to FAQs from Dean Cathann Kress. "If we're not having our students going international, then we wouldn't have 4-H participants go international for summer experiences."
- **Grants:** Refer to FAQs provided by Interim Director Jackie Wilkins. "When certain deliverables are associated with a grant, please reach out to the grant funder(s) about how best to proceed during the next two to three weeks."

I will continue to provide additional clarity around program areas, as they become available.

Jackie Kirby Wilkins
Interim OSU Extension Director
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