

September 2020
Dear 4-H Families,

With the start of the new year quickly approaching, I know there have been a lot of questions about what the 4-H year might look like. I hope this letter can provide a little clarification and some comfort as we get the year started. The resumption of activities is always such an exciting time, but it can also bring some fear of the unknown, it is our role as families, leaders and staff to allow everyone to have a safe, healthy and fun time while participating in 4-H events.

The state 4-H Office has worked numerous hours trying to prepare guidelines that are simple to follow at the county level, they are stated as:

Committee or Club Meetings

- o Virtual still preferred unless it is important to be together.
- o If together and indoors, facial covering requirement for all participants is in effect regardless of location + maintain physical distancing standard.
- o Modify hands-on activities to reduce risk to yourself and/or participants

OTHER NOTES

- o Limit congestion points
- o Mitigate or frequently clean high-touch surfaces
 - **This means clubs MUST sanitize all chairs, tables, and surfaces that were used during their meeting**
- o The office will be sure to provide access to hand sanitizer or washing stations
- o Pre-register rather than "drop in" (if extras show up be sure to write their names down) - Have members RSVP for meetings if possible.
- o Maintain 6 ft. distancing between non-family participants- proper distancing is the #1 guidepost rather than just thinking "hey, we are less than 60 so we are good to go!")

Exemption from Face Covering Requirement

- o Youth ages 2 and under are automatically exempt.
- o Those attendees with a psychological or physical condition that would necessitate an exemption may request one from the office, preferably in advance.
 - **Political affiliation is not grounds for an exemption.**

We hope this information will help you to be more prepared for the upcoming events. If you have any questions in regards to this information please contact the 4-H office.

I hope to see many of you soon as we gear up for another great year of 4-H!
Sincerely,

Regina Bakley

Regina Bakley
SDSU Extension 4-H Youth Program Advisor - Pennington County