



5/25/21

4-H COVID Update

Thank you so much for your continued support this past year as we made the necessary changes to protect the health of our 4-H community. This summer, we are excited to be able to return to in-person versions of our events!

In line with the latest guidelines from campus, the following will be in place on or before June 30th at all 4-H events:

- The university will no longer require fully vaccinated people to wear face coverings or practice social distancing indoors or outdoors. “Fully vaccinated” means 14 days after your final dose.
- Face coverings for youth under 12 and people who are not fully vaccinated will be required indoors. Masks may be removed outdoors only when it is possible to maintain social distance of at least 6 feet.
- These policies are grounded in the honor code. Participants will self-identify as vaccinated or unvaccinated; staff will not verify vaccination status for staff, youth, families, or volunteers. The 4-H program teaches youth the values of honesty and integrity and this is a chance for us all to model and represent those principles. Youth will continue to pay attention to not only our words, but also our actions.

We know this has been a year of making painful sacrifices to help stop the spread of a global pandemic, and we are humbled by the care you have taken to keep each other safe. Last summer, in the midst of the pandemic, we successfully moved to a virtual version of 400+ 4-H showcase events. As we go forward into this next phase, we know we will continue to be stronger together, whatever comes our way.

We will keep aligning with CDC, IDPH, and campus guidelines and will update you on any changes. For further information, please review the chancellor’s message below.

We are looking forward to seeing you this summer at 4-H events!



Dr. Lisa Bouillion Diaz
4-H Assistant Dean and Director

Message from Chancellor Robert J. Jones

Dear Colleagues,

Last week I announced [changes to the university's policy regarding the wearing of face coverings and practicing social distancing for fully vaccinated individuals](#) following updated public health recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

University Guidance

- The university no longer will require fully vaccinated people to wear face coverings or practice social distancing indoors or outdoors, except in healthcare settings and in-person summer classes. "Fully vaccinated" means 14 days after their final dose.
- People who are not fully vaccinated will be required to wear a face covering and practice social distancing indoors and outdoors.

To avoid creating confusion, it is important that units do not create their own requirements for face coverings and other practices that differ from the CDC public health recommendations.

Additional Guidance

- Fully vaccinated individuals may always choose to wear face coverings and practice social distancing in any university setting.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated must continue to wear face coverings and practice social distancing.
- This new guidance should be communicated clearly to all relevant stakeholders.

Research Guidance

- Principal investigators should update their safety plans based on this guidance. Your safety plan may recommend—but may not require—that vaccinated individuals wear face coverings to facilitate research interaction with members of the public. This recommendation should occur at the research group level and not at the unit, institute, college or building level.
- If a research group or members of a research group encounter issues implementing changes to their safety plan, they should seek guidance from their Unit Head or the [Division of Research Safety](#).

We ask for your assistance in ensuring your units follow the campus lead on this effort. Our approach will continue to develop as we receive new guidance from local, state and federal health officials. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Jones
Chancellor