

## COVID-19 Update: DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties

March 17, 2020

**Please note: This includes new information since the last updates on 3/16/2020 or 3/13/2020. We know the following is long, but it is important to read it thoroughly. Thank you.**

The impact of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) continues to create uncertainty and concern both globally and here in our community. Following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, the University of Illinois has implemented social-distancing protocols that impact all university events. Illinois Extension, as the outreach program of the university, aligns with all policies related to public health and safety.

Effective immediately, ALL face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This will apply to all events previously scheduled through May 31, 2020. If you have any questions or concerns about the status of any activity NOT mentioned below, please check our website for more details. (*More information listed throughout below*).

### Illinois Extension office suspends regular office hours: DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties

As the University of Illinois continues to address the impacts of COVID-19, the safety and well-being of our staff and communities remain our top priorities. Following [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#), campus leadership has implemented social-distancing protocols that include most faculty and staff working remotely, effective March 17, 2020.

What does this mean in our community?

- University of Illinois Extension has suspended normal office hours at our office located in Naperville, St. Charles and Yorkville. While our staff will still be working, they will largely be doing so remotely, in most cases from their homes. ([Staff directory may be found here](#))
- ALL face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This will apply to all events previously scheduled through May 31, 2020. Please check our event calendar at <https://extension.illinois.edu/dkk> to learn more about the status of any of our events. (See below for a more detailed outline).

We will do our best to address your needs in a timely manner. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we manage through these challenging times. If you have a question about an event/program not listed below, or if this is an urgent situation, please contact Deanna Roby-Vorgias at [roby@illinois.edu](mailto:roby@illinois.edu)

### Illinois Extension event cancellation notice: DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties

#### 4-H Clubs:

- Effective immediately, ALL face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension have been cancelled, suspended, or transitioned to online delivery. This means that all 4-H club meetings are cancelled through May 31, 2020.
- During this time, we are committed to supporting you in your continued 4-H project experience at home. Right now, we are preparing a series of statewide 4-H Online engagement opportunities through our Facebook page (Illinois 4-H). Please check there for updates. As additional resources are identified, we will share through social media and e-newsletters.
- We know that you may also have questions and concerns about summer events. We will be actively monitoring the situation and providing updates as they are available. We know that you have put a lot of work into your 4-H projects. Be assured that we are exploring all possibilities for providing continued judging, exhibit, and showcase opportunities.

### **Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists:**

- At this time, as Extension staff is working remotely away from Extension offices, we will not continue staffing the Master Gardener Help Desk in person until further notice. Staff may collect client questions that come in and distribute those questions to volunteers virtually if they see fit. Otherwise, help desks will resume once normal Extension business hours resume.
- *For Master Gardener and Master Naturalist interns*, the official policy states that you need to complete 60 hours of volunteer time within two years. Because of the potential for reduced volunteer opportunities during the next month or more, the two years will be extended to reflect the length of time that this policy was in effect.
- *For Active Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists*, the official policy states that you need to complete 30 hours of volunteer time and 10 hours of continuing education each year. Because of the potential for reduced volunteer and education opportunities during the next month or more, there will be flexibility and understanding given for those struggling to reach the total required yearly hours due to limited opportunities.
- In effect, all events involving Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteers will be suspended or will change to an online delivery system. If you have any questions or concerns about the status of any activity NOT mentioned below, please contact your program coordinator.

At this time, the following events also are impacted by the implementation of these policies.

- Think Spring: Prepping for Spring (March 19) – This event is canceled and will not be rescheduled. For questions, contact Sarah Fellerer at [fellerer@illinois.edu](mailto:fellerer@illinois.edu)
- YQCA Face-to-Face Training – Kendall County (March 19) – This event is canceled, but likely will be rescheduled. (Emails went to participants March 16; check your SPAM folders as needed). More information will be shared when it is available.
- YQCA Face-to-Face Training – Kane County (March 21/May 2) – This event is officially canceled for both dates. More information will be shared when it is available.
- DuPage Friends of Extension “Celebrate Spring” Event (March 21) – This event is officially postponed and will likely be rescheduled. Please check [the group’s website](#) for updates.
- 4-H Spring Break Workshops and Mini-Camps (March 23-April 4) – At this time, Spring Break workshops and mini-camps are canceled and communications about refunds have been sent to registered families.
- Northeast Regional Horse Bowl and Hippology (March 28) – This event is canceled. We are exploring if it is possible to choose alternative dates or formats, and we will be in touch moving forward.
- Kane County 4-H Foundation Fundraiser (March 28) – This event is officially postponed and will be rescheduled. More information will be shared when it is available.
- The Basics of Bees with Kane County HCE (March 30) – This event is canceled and is not rescheduled at this time. For questions, contact Sarah Fellerer at [fellerer@illinois.edu](mailto:fellerer@illinois.edu)
- 4-H Robotics Showcase for DuPage Kane and Kendall Counties (April 3) – This event is canceled. We are exploring if it is possible to choose alternative dates or formats, and we will be in touch moving forward. If you have any questions, please contact event contact Donna Nuger at [dnuger@illinois.edu](mailto:dnuger@illinois.edu)
- 4-H Dog Training – At this time, these meetings and activities will be suspended. We will keep everyone informed of any changes and future plans.
- 4-H Teen Science Ambassadors – At this time, these meetings and activities will be suspended. We will keep everyone informed of any changes and future plans.
- 4-H Outdoor Skills and Shooting Sports – At this time, these meetings and activities will be suspended indefinitely. We will keep everyone informed of any changes and future plans.

### **Additional events added to the cancel list 3/17/2020:**

- Kendall County 4-H Food Packing Event (April 14)
- 4-H Science Fair & STEM Showcase (April 16)
- Kendall County 4-H International Night (April 18)
- 4-H Public Presentations Contest (April 25)

### **State/national event cancellations/changes**

- Speaking for Illinois 4-H Training (March 21) – This event will be changed to an online format for a shorter timeframe. Learn more [here](#).

- National 4-H Conference (March 28-April 2) – Postponed and rescheduled for Sept. 26 to Oct. 1. Event registrations already collected will be returned. Youth confirmed for this event will be invited to re-register as we get closer to the new dates. Details forthcoming.
- IL 4-H Horse Speaking and Hippology Contest (April 18) – The event in Champaign is canceled, and Illinois 4-H is looking at online alternatives. More information will be shared when it is available.
- IL 4-H Horse Bowl Contest (April 19) – The event in Champaign will be canceled, and Illinois 4-H is looking at options for online alternatives. More information will be shared when it is available.
- IL 4-H State Robotics Competition (May 9) – The event in Bloomington-Normal will be canceled and we are looking at options for online alternatives. More information will be shared when it is available.

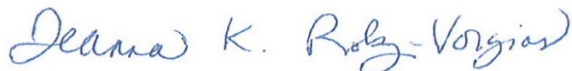
Look for specific information about cancellations and postponements on our website at <https://extension.illinois.edu/dkk>. If we cancel a local program that included a cost, we'll be in touch about refunds. In some cases, events such as local committee meetings or in-person trainings may be replaced with webinars or online meetings, or with digital resources you can review at your convenience. If that is the case, you will be contacted with more information.

If you have any questions about events, please contact your Extension event contact directly or email [ue-dkk@illinois.edu](mailto:ue-dkk@illinois.edu).

A collection of resources to assist families and community leaders preparing for and coping with COVID-19 is available online at <http://go.illinois.edu/ExtensionCOVID19resources>.

We are working to support all Illinois families at this time. We appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate this situation.

Sincerely,



Deanna K. Roby-Vorgias  
University of Illinois Extension