

UMass Extension 4-H Program Reopening Guidance

The UMass Extension 4-H Program will follow the guidance and policies provided by the state of Massachusetts for Health and Safety Standards in order to inform allowable 4-H program and outreach activities. The outline below provides current guidance for 4-H club, group, and program operations.

Both the University and UMass Extension will continue to monitor state guidelines and standards. As these change, UMass Extension and 4-H will readjust any guidance and provide updates and information to volunteers and families.

1. All **outdoor** 4-H Extension programming is allowed to resume immediately following all relevant Massachusetts state and CDC restrictions on gathering size, distancing, masking, and eliminating communal food.
2. All **indoor** 4-H Extension programming and club activities will be allowed to resume **June 1, 2021** following all relevant Massachusetts state and CDC restrictions on gathering size, distancing, masking, eliminating communal food etc. in coordination with next phase of state guidelines. This date is consistent with permissions currently granted by the University.
3. Currently, the Governor's emergency protocol is scheduled to end on June 15, 2021. After that date, participation in fairs of any kind will follow state compliance guidelines. All participants will be required to follow all Massachusetts state and CDC restriction for outdoor and indoor activities. **4-H Fairs** controlled by UMass 4-H, through local authorized 4-H Fair Boards and Committees, will be allowed to go forward and be held in person in compliance with all regulatory standards. All enrolled 4-H members will be allowed to participate in UMass 4-H sponsored fairs.
4. Any fairs organized or operated by groups outside of 4-H or UMass are separate from the UMass Extension 4-H Program, and not controlled, organized, or operated by UMass 4-H. Enrolled Massachusetts 4-H youth may participate as individuals or with their clubs in other Agricultural fairs or those with specific 4-H classes.
5. Participation in the New England 4-H Summer Fair, to be held on the Big E grounds, West Springfield, in July 2021 will be allowed for registered Massachusetts 4-H members. This option is available to individuals or clubs for participation. Accommodations and chaperoning of 4-H participants is the responsibility of each family or club and will not be provided by UMass Extension 4-H. 4-H educators or other staff may be present and assisting at this event but will not be able to provide oversight for youth during the event or at night.

Please know that we appreciate your efforts during this unusual year. We appreciate your patience and commitment. If you have concerns or questions about 4-H Programming or this guidance, please reach out to either one of these individuals:

Kathleen Geary, Assistant Director of CAFÉ Administration
kmgeary@umass.edu

Linda Horn, Interim 4-H Program Director
lrhorn@umass.edu

Please Note: Anyone interested is welcome to attend a Zoom where these guidelines and reopening information will be discussed. No registration is necessary, and we welcome your comments, concerns and questions. The Zoom is open to all and will be held on Monday, May 24 at 7:00PM. Contact Linda Horn or Kathleen Geary to obtain the Zoom link.

You may submit questions prior to the event to either person listed above.



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