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COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL'S POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (PYD) EXPERIENCES

National 4-H Council is committed to the health and safety of all youth and adults participating in our National 4-H PYD experiences as we continue to experience the COVID-19 pandemic. Council continues to follow the latest CDC guidance regarding COVID-19. As of January 4, the following protocols will be implemented to help mitigate the risks of exposure to COVID-19 for all participants. These are NOT optional for any youth and adults attending the National 4-H Healthy Living and Agri-Science Summits and/or Citizenship Washington Focus.

These protocols may be further updated prior to or during the event(s), based on any new directives or guidance from federal, the District of Columbia, State of Maryland and/or Montgomery County governments.

- Everyone attending must provide proof of **either a complete COVID-19 vaccination series or** a negative COVID-19 test result within 48 hours prior to their arrival in Bethesda, MD. Any individual who, due to health reasons, is unable to abide by any of the required protocols and wishes to attend must provide a signed letter from their doctor requesting a waiver.
- Everyone must wear a properly fitting mask that covers their nose and mouth. Exceptions include 1) when in hotel lodging rooms 2) consuming food/drink and 3) participating in outdoor activities while maintaining 3' social distance. Participants will be responsible for providing adequate masks for the duration of their experience.
- All participants will be encouraged to wash their hands multiple times throughout the day as recommended by the CDC. It is suggested that participants bring their own hand sanitizer to be used in addition to the sanitizer provided in all public areas of the hotel.
- Based on current CDC information and clinical expertise, older adults (65 and older) and people of any age who have underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. These individuals should consider implementing additional protective protocols. These decisions are the responsibility of the individual, who assume liability for their decisions.
- There will not be water stations in meeting rooms. Please bring a sturdy re-useable water bottle from home labeled with your name for easy identification through the weekend.
- All participants will be required to submit a form stating their agreement to abide by all protocols. Youth delegate agreements will also require the signature of their parent/guardian. Any individual who does not follow protocols will be sent home immediately at their own expense.

Prior to Leaving:

All participants are to self-monitor and NOT leave their home state if they are showing any of the following symptoms at the time of the trip departure and/or on the two days prior.

- Fever (body temperature of 99.5 degrees F (37.5 degrees C) or higher
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue or muscle and body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a youth or adult delegate experiences COVID-19 symptoms once they arrive at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, they will be isolated as a precaution and sent home as soon as possible. The state 4-H program of the participant will be responsible for arranging transportation, additional room charges for isolation, and supervision of the delegate until they can travel back home.

Hotel Precautions

- The sanitizing stations all over the public areas of the hotel will be checked and refreshed as needed.
- High touch points in the hotel are cleaned frequently.
- Meals will be modified with a server at each station with protective shields between the server and the guest. All condiments will be in individual packets.
- Elevator capacities will be limited. It will be critical that youth comply with those limits.

Any person who must drop out at the last minute due to a diagnosis of COVID-19 will receive a 50% refund of their registration fee upon submission of a doctor's note.

The National 4-H Youth Summits and Citizenship Washington Focus are voluntary events. These protocols have been established to provide the safest possible environment for youth and adults attending. It is imperative that all youth and adults agree to and abide by these established protocols. All decisions to attend should be based on your specific situation and comfort with the potential for exposure to any illness while attending the event(s). We understand that there may still be youth and families who are not comfortable meeting in person at this time. It is critical that individual decisions are respected. We trust that your state will work with you to determine if you are eligible to attend in a subsequent year.