



## COVID PROTOCOLS AND LIABILITY WAIVER FOR NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL'S POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES IN 2022

National 4-H Council is committed to the health and safety of all youth and adults participating in our National 4-H Positive Youth Development (PYD) experiences as we continue to experience the COVID-19 pandemic. Council continues to follow the latest CDC guidance as well as District of Columbia, State of Maryland and Montgomery County, MD guidance and directives regarding COVID-19. As of March 23, 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 Summit and/or Citizenship Washington Focus. Individuals who are unable to comply with these protocols will be asked to leave immediately at their own expense.

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

- Everyone attending must provide proof of ***either a complete COVID-19 vaccination series or a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 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.
- **Masks not required, but strongly recommended.** In accordance with the most recent CDC, State of Maryland and Montgomery County Guidelines, masks are not required. However individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time. While the District of Columbia has dropped its vaccination and mask requirements to enter restaurants and other venues, it is important to note that masks ARE STILL REQUIRED on public transportation throughout Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. Please keep this in mind as you plan your travel. Montgomery County (the county in which the meeting hotel is located) is classified by the CDC as an area of low COVID-19 transmission. Participants will be responsible for providing their own well-fitting masks should they wish to wear a mask during their Summit and/or CWF 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), those who are unvaccinated 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, and those who assume liability for their decisions.

**Prior to Leaving for Bethesda, MD:**

All participants are to self-monitor. If a participant is showing any of the following symptoms listed below at the time of the trip departure and/or on the two days prior, you are NOT to leave your home state.

- 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.

**Additional 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.
- 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.

**COVID-19 Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk**

The National 4-H Youth Summits and Citizenship Washington Focus are voluntary events. The above protocols have been established to provide the safest possible environment for youth and adults attending. In consideration of being allowed to participate in one or more of these events, the below signed participant, and the participant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the participant is a minor, agrees as follows:

1. I am aware that the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") is an extremely contagious virus and that it is currently believed that COVID-19 spreads through person-to-person contact.
2. I am familiar with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding COVID-19, which are located at <https://www.coronavirus.gov>. I acknowledge and understand that the circumstances regarding COVID-19 are changing from day-to-day, and that the CDC guidelines are regularly modified and updated. I accept full responsibility for familiarizing myself with the most recent updates, and making informed choices to take precautionary measures to protect myself and others.
3. In addition to the CDC guidelines, I agree to abide by the above COVID-19 protocols as established by National 4-H Council for the event I am attending as well as any and all policies or postings published to any venue where program events occur.

4. By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that I am aware of the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 during my participation, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others.

5. I agree that, in the event that I suspect I became exposed to or infected by COVID-19 during my participation and I elect to seek testing and/or treatment as a result therefrom, I will be responsible for payment of any and all medical services and testing services.

6. I voluntarily choose to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury, illness, permanent disability, or death related to COVID-19 arising from or in connection with my participation. I hereby release and hold harmless National 4-H Council, their employees, agents, directors, officers and representatives and other participants from and against all liabilities (statutory or otherwise) for claims, suits, demands, judgments, costs, interest and expense (including but not limited to attorney's fees and disbursements) for injury, illness, permanent disability, or death related to COVID-19 arising from or in connection with my participation, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE, ACTS OR OMISSIONS OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT. I AM AWARE THAT BY SIGNING BELOW I MAY BE WAIVING CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE.

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_