

New Hampshire 4-H Shooting Sports Pandemic Programming Rules August 21, 2020

Introduction

UNH Cooperative Extension 4-H has given us the green light to start working with youth in-person. Yahoo! There are a couple of important considerations and conditions. First, volunteers should only work directly with youth if they feel comfortable doing so. This is not an expectation, but rather an option. If you have any conditions that may make you uncomfortable or vulnerable to coronavirus, then factor this into your decision. **The next point is critical.** All programs are expected to follow the protocol which is outlined [on our website](#). Stop here and thoroughly review these mandatory practices.

If this seems like a lot, it is. However, as always, our most important job is to keep children, families and volunteers safe. This is a University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension program and this organization is doing everything it can to promote practices that will minimize the probability that coronavirus is spread. We anticipate that once you and your 4-H'ers have done this a time or two, it will be relatively easy to manage.

Remember, as the situation with novel coronavirus evolves, so will our protocol. Restrictions could ease, but they could also strengthen. We'll keep you posted.

Specific Guidance for 4-H Shooting Sports Activities

- All policies outlined in the [NH 4-H Shooting Sports Policy & Risk Management Plan](#) apply to all programming in this project.
- All individuals participating in Shooting Sports programs are expected to wear a mask when they are not on the firing line. When a member is on the firing line, they may remove their mask if a minimum of six feet of physical distancing can be maintained. All members in archery must fully remove their mask and maintain physical distancing when on the firing line for safety purposes.
- During this initial phase, you are expected to limit participation to experienced 4-H Shooting Sports members. Novices require a coach who must be in very close proximity to the shooter. This will violate the 6-foot rule which is why we can't allow it.
- When possible, coaches should minimize the amount of time spent within close proximity to members, but safe muzzle control **MUST** always be maintained. Consider utilizing household members as coaches.
- Range Safety officers may remove a mask or shield, when they are giving commands if they are able to maintain at least a minimum of six feet of physical distance.

- All surfaces that are touched -tables, benches, chairs etc. - must be sanitized between individuals. Equipment should not be shared between participants without sanitizing the equipment first. If you do not have enough equipment for each member to have their own, it is encouraged that you split member time on the range into scheduled session and sanitize between sessions.
- Consider having youth bring their own equipment to eliminate sharing and common surfaces. Only do this in consultation with families and only if you are confident in the experience level of your members and the safety of their equipment.
- **How to sanitize firearms and archery equipment. ***
 - Thoroughly wipe down equipment surfaces with denatured ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol (70% or more is best). Alcohol wipes will work as well. It would be wise to experiment on a small section of the equipment to make sure it doesn't damage the surface. Do not use bleach-based cleaners on equipment as they can damage metal finishes. Be sure to wipe down all surfaces that youth will be touching and sharing including arrows. Before storing equipment be sure to clean it and re-oil the surfaces because alcohol will remove the oil coating.

*Most of this advice comes to us from the experts at Sig Academy and Brownells Inc.

Questions? Ideas? Please contact:

Larry Barker
NH 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator
Larry.barker@unh.edu
603.788.4961



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