Dear 4-H Families and Volunteers,

We’re encouraged by the cautious optimism of our state government leaders as it relates to COVID-19 and our ability to resume some activities.

As stated in earlier messages, 4-H is part of NDSU Extension making it also part of NDSU and subject to the guidance other agencies of state government are expected to observe during this time. We realize some of you have had minor community impact due to COVID-19. While that is a good thing, it also makes managing the situation a challenge from a state perspective.

Effective June 15, 2020, NDSU Extension was approved to move into “Phase II” allowing all NDSU Extension events in North Dakota, except Cass County, to have up to 250 people (for indoor events the lesser of 250 or 50% of room capacity) attend an event. Expectations related to distancing, managing group mixing and cleaning/disinfection are still required. For large group events, NDSU Extension recommends managing the components of an event in subgroups of 25 people or less. The local Extension Agent must submit proposals for managing large events involving more than 25 people to their respective district director for review and approval. Once approved, the event can proceed. Extension Agents have been provided the information to follow.

Regarding meetings of your 4-H club or group, if you could have more than 25 people in attendance, you must submit a request to your local Extension Agent for a “one-time blanket authorization.” The request needs to include that you intend to resume in-person meetings following Phase II guidelines. It will be helpful if you provide the normal meeting dates/time/location and include all meetings of your group for the remainder of the 4-H year, ending August 31, 2020. When approved, documentation of this approval must be made available upon the request of any of our Extension supervisors. If you are planning to meet with your club and know the number of people will be under 25, you do not need to submit any requests to resume meetings.

Local Extension offices have been provided the details related to the Phase II Guidance issued by NDSU Agriculture. Please contact your local office if you have specific questions.

We all look forward to living, playing, and working together more frequently than the past few months have allowed. Let’s hope it stays that way. If the conditions in North Dakota change, the guidance we operate under may also change. Thanks for your continued understanding and patience.

More information can be found on our COVID-19 Response Page here: https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/covid_19/

Sincerely,

Brad Cogdill
Chair, Center for 4-H Youth Development
June 19, 2020