



Suggestions for Safely Phasing in a Return to 4-H Shooting Sports Activities

COVID-19 has certainly changed our world and our 4-H programs across the country. 4-H Educators and Volunteers have made great efforts to find creative and safe ways to keep our youth engaged in 4-H learning. As we look ahead, we must keep in mind that there is no “one size fits all” timeline or method to reopen our states or our 4-H programs. Each State and each Land Grant University 4-H Program has the autonomy to determine when and how to return toward conducting any 4-H program or activity.

Factors to Consider:

- Federal & State Government Guidelines
- State Land Grant University Decisions & Guidelines relative to when & how to reopen 4-H programs.
- Observe guidelines set by your administration regarding group size.
- As you plan your outreach efforts, the National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is reminding you and your shooting sports volunteers to review and follow National 4-H Shooting Sports Minimum Standards & Best Management Practices. Please pay particular attention to Minimum Standard #11:
 - 11. All 4-H Shooting Sports functions (events, meetings, club practices, etc.) which include the handling or use of firearms or archery equipment requires the physical presence and constant supervision of at least one adult 4-H Shooting Sports instructor who is currently certified in that respective discipline(s) (adopted 4/2018)
- Practice Social Distancing (6 ft.); Hand Washing / sanitizing; face coverings.
- In addition to limits established for gatherings, Limit numbers of participants to the number that can maintain recommended social distancing in the space / range / meeting area where you are conducting the activity.
- Consider not providing food. If participants need snacks they should bring their own.
- Encourage participants to bring their own beverages. If water needs to be provided, don't use common touch items (i.e. water cooler), use individual bottles and volunteers should use gloves to distribute.
- To manage the numbers of shooters present, use sign up times for practice times. This will allow for management of numbers to allow physical distancing.
- Rearrange firing points to allow for six feet of distance between shooters. For Airgun, smallbore, and, archery, a suggested two firing points between shooters would be sufficient. Shotgun activities such as Trap would satisfy the requirement. The squad of five shooters would need to maintain the 6 feet of distance.
- Monitor participants for any health concerns (guidelines for attending- ie. Fever, cough, exposure).
- Establish and share in advance your guidelines for youth participants as well as parents attending.

- Wear a non-medical cloth mask if conducting programs for beginning participants who may require closeup instruction/supervision by instructors. Non- flammable masks are recommended for use in the muzzleloader discipline.
- At the conclusion of the practice session, sanitize all shooting surfaces, tables, etc. Be sure to have shooters wash their hands with soap and water before and after the activity. For complete CDC Guidelines, please see the following website address;
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html>
- It may be helpful in your decision- making process to review the following guidelines from CDC relative to community, schools-childcare, camps: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tree.pdf?deliveryName=USCDC_1191-DM28630
- Programs may wish to continue to limit everyone’s potential exposure to the virus by offering alternative learning experiences through at home activities that do not involve handling of firearms or archery equipment. STEM activities are available and can be found on the National 4-H Shooting Sports website. Additional areas of focus might be: Citizenship; Leadership; Community Service; History of Firearms / Archery.
- As we all look at ways to continue involvement of youth in our programs, virtual platforms certainly can play a part, but we must follow our Minimum Standards & Best Practices. Hearing what others are doing helps us all learn! Please share your ideas.

Equipment:

- Sanitize any shared equipment and meeting spaces on a regular basis.
- Shared equipment should be wiped with a sanitizing agent such as alcohol between sharing.
 - Bows, arrows, tabs & arm guards
 - Firearm stocks, forearms, triggers and bolts
 - Take precautions to prevent damage to surfaces when using sanitizing agents.