



Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia 4-H, State Office
Jeremy Johnson
250 Drillfield Drive
105 Hutcheson Hall
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
P: (540) 231-2330
jejohns1@vt.edu

March 27, 2020

RE: 2nd Coronavirus (COVID-19) update from Virginia 4-H

Dear Virginia 4-H Families,

On March 13, I shared an update with our Virginia 4-H family about the impact of the coronavirus response on 4-H programming. COVID-19 continues to have far-reaching impact and it is important that Virginia 4-H respond in a way that promotes the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

I believe it is important to acknowledge the uncertainty and stress we are all experiencing at this time. I also believe it is important to affirm the powerful and rapid response of our 4-H professionals, volunteers, and youth to create opportunities for connection and positive youth development when it is needed the most. I'm grateful to hear the stories of virtual club meetings, sharing of 4-H projects on social media, and 4-H curriculum being provided through food distribution sites for the many Virginia youth that do not have internet access at home. This is 4-H. You "Make the Best Better."

In alignment with Governor Northam's directive that all K-12 schools be closed for the remainder of the academic year, ALL in-person 4-H programming will remain suspended until further notice. We will continue to monitor the situation, discuss late spring and summer programming, and provide timely updates regarding the suspension.

As a 4-H alum and the parent of 4-H members, I know many of you have questions about summer programming including State 4-H Congress, camp, and livestock shows. As we make decisions about these events, we will do so with understanding of the hard work and investment our volunteers and 4-H youth have made. We must also make these decisions in the best interest of public health and within the directives of the Commonwealth of Virginia and Virginia Tech.

As we share in our 4-H risk management training, we must "plan for the best and worst." We will continue our planning efforts for late spring and summer programs and be ready to respond as restrictions for events and gatherings are lifted.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY

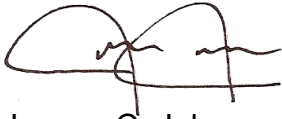
Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.



Please continue to visit the [Virginia Cooperative Extension COVID-19 webpage](#) for resources. A list of on-going [statewide programmatic cancellations/postponements](#) is posted on this site. There is also a list of [resources for to support parents during the COVID-19 response](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy C. Johnson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jeremy C. Johnson, M.Ed.
Assistant Director and State 4-H Leader