



Frequently Asked Questions regarding Purdue Extension summer 2020 event guidelines – May 22, 2020

Below are some FAQs that Purdue Extension has received in recent days. Given changes in the Back on Track plan, it is important to remember that guidance is fluid and will likely change again before July fairs.

Why is Purdue Extension imposing restrictions on fairs when the Governor's plan says the state is open?

The Back on Track plan released on May 1, 2020 allows county fairs to occur in Stage 5 of the plan. The May 21 update to the plan looks to local governments to establish safe social distancing requirements and recommends that face coverings be worn in public. The Purdue Extension guidance from last week was designed to accommodate these requirements. Continue to plan for fairs based on the most recent state and local guidance, but also be flexible and recognize that the Back on Track plan might change.

Why is a Show and Go fair required and no animal overnight stays?

Social distancing requirements increase the space needed for penning/stalling, which limits the availability at the fair. Families that can safely show using their trailers should do so to open up space in barns for families who cannot safely show off trailers, as needed. Eliminating overnight stays of animals allows for deeper cleaning and disinfecting of high-contact areas in the barns.

Do fairs have to comply with all of the guidance in the Event Safety Alliance Reopening Guide?

No, this guide was provided to help you consider all of the risks surrounding opening an event during COVID-19. Some of the recommendations are appropriate for the fair. Other recommendations are not. It is a good reference to help you think of risks. Remember be flexible as situations will likely change.

What are the requirements for collecting contact information for attendees?

The requirements need to be determined in your planning for the fair with the local health authorities. Providing contact information is supposed to help them. Provide the information local health departments want and in the fashion they want it. Collect the information in a manner that is appropriate for your fair and county. Work with your local health authority to develop the plan and include it in your COVID safety plan.

Why are face coverings required when the Back on Track plan says they are recommended?

The use of face coverings is to help prevent asymptomatic individuals from infecting others. We continue to believe that practices that slow the spread of the virus are important and that fairs would qualify as a place at significant risk for community-based transmission and that additional precautions are necessary. It is our recommendation to require face coverings and Purdue employees will be required to wear them. We think it is the right thing to do to protect others. Having said that, we recognize that state and local public health authorities are refining guidance for each locality. As guidance is expected to change, please work with your local health official to determine the appropriate use of face coverings for 4-H participants and volunteers in your county.

Are face coverings required to be worn at all times during the fair?

No, it is our recommendation that face coverings are only necessary when social distancing is difficult to accomplish, as recommended by the CDC. However, there are times that wearing a face covering is not appropriate. For example, when cleaning an animal in the wash rack, it may not be appropriate for youth to be wearing a face covering. Local 4-H Councils and fair boards should follow the advice of their local health authority to identify examples when face coverings are required and not required and include it in your COVID safety plan.

Can volunteers and 4-H participants ignore face covering requirements during the fair?

No. During the fair, there are situations that wearing a face covering would be recommended by the CDC and state and local health authorities. In addition, some people might feel more comfortable participating and attending the fair if people are wearing face coverings. Please work with your local health authority to identify examples when face coverings are required and not required and include it in your COVID safety plan.