

# COVID-19 And The 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference

## Health & Safety Protocols

4-H Ontario's our top priority is the health and safety of our participants. Our goal is to offer programming in a way that is meaningful to participants and provides experiences that encompass the core values and essence of what 4-H is, while respecting health and safety. 4-H Ontario continues to monitor the Government guidelines for COVID-19 and the province's phased approach to reopening.

The protocols and processes that are identified here are intended to outline the steps that will be taken to provide every precaution possible to mitigate transmission of COVID-19.

**Please note: 4-H Ontario is aware of the lifting of public health restrictions regarding proof of vaccination and masking. Despite the changes described above, the 4-H Ontario Volunteer Conference will continue to follow 50% capacity limits and proof of vaccine and masking will be required with respect for the delegates who registered for the event prior to the announcement of these updates.**

### IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE:

- Participants are asked to self-monitor for 10 days prior to coming to the conference using this screening tool: [COVID-19 Ontario Self Assessment](#)
- Before setting off for the conference, participants are asked to screen themselves. We ask that everyone be detailed and truthful about their status to keep all participants safe. If a participant develops COVID-like symptoms prior to arrival, we ask that they contact Kathryn Lambert ([events@4-hontario.ca](mailto:events@4-hontario.ca)) or Megan Burnside-Poitras ([volunteers@4-hontario.ca](mailto:volunteers@4-hontario.ca)) they will discuss options for withdrawing from the event as needed.
- For the 10 days leading into the conference, all participants are asked to do their best to limit any potential exposure; masking if outside of their house and physical distancing, proper handwashing etc. as recommended by public health.

### AT THE CONFERENCE

- At the conference registration desk, please be prepared to show your COVID-19 passport with QR code and proof of ID. You may download that at this link: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>. Once this certificate has been verified by staff, participants will receive a wrist band to wear for the duration of the event.
  - For information about vaccine certificates with QR codes and the requirements you can visit [this link](#). It is recommended that attendees bring this certificate in paper form, in case of technology lapses.
  - **IMPORTANT:** If a vaccine certificate is not presented, the participant will not be permitted to confirm their conference registration and will be required to provide the proper documentation before engaging in conference activities.
- On arrival at the conference registration desk, staff will ask you screening-related questions as noted in the [COVID-19 Ontario Self Assessment](#). Any participant who exhibits signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will not be able to continue with conference activities.
- Masks must be worn over the nose and chin. As defined by the [Ministry of Health](#), page 4, a "mask", should have at least three layers for use at the conference. Delegates who do not have a mask with

them can be provided one at the conference registration desk at any time. All conference activities aside from meals will require masks to be worn.

- In situations where a physical distance of greater than 2 meters is possible, speakers and presenters will be permitted to remove their mask while speaking.
- During mealtimes and coffee breaks, masks need to be worn until participants begin eating. When finished, the participants will need to put their masks back on.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with a concentration of 60%-90% will be available throughout the venue for the duration of the conference.
- Participants are asked to physically distance themselves throughout conference activities. Table seating arrangements have been made to respect physical distancing measures.
- Hotel staff have implemented extended hygiene and cleaning practices, as outlined at <https://clean.marriott.com/>.
- All participants are reminded to be mindful of the following health precautionary measures:
  - proper hand hygiene,
  - respiratory etiquette (i.e. cover cough/sneeze),
  - masking; including the replacement of masks when wet, soiled, etc.
  - physical distancing requirements, and
  - daily self-screening for COVID symptoms.

#### **If someone becomes symptomatic while at the conference**

- If a participant starts to demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms, they will be asked to isolate in their hotel room (not partaking in any further conference activities) until such time as they are able to leave the venue and to inform Megan Burnside-Poitras (text/phone 613-929-7353) of their situation.

#### **FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE**

- If any participant develops signs/symptoms of COVID-19 within the 14 days following the completion of the Volunteer Conference, please alert Megan Burnside-Poitras for our contact tracing purposes.
- The individual will be asked to take an appropriate COVID-19 test (a PCR test is preferred, if available) and to report the results to Megan Burnside-Poitras as soon as possible.
- If testing results are negative, the individual will be asked to re-test if symptoms persist.
- An Incident Report will be filed, and all participants will be notified if exposure to COVID-19 is suspected.