

COVID-19 Guidelines for MSU Extension In-Person Events and Activities and Face Coverings

February 1, 2021

MSU Extension meets the needs of the people and places of Montana through educational and engagement activities, partnerships, and programs. The purpose of this document is to support MSU Extension Faculty and Staff regarding planning and implementing in-person events and activities. These guidelines will be updated as more information is available or with subsequent changes as directed by the Governor of Montana¹.

Core Responsibilities & Requirements:

- The health and safety of our faculty, staff, clientele, and partners is the top priority. It is our responsibility to be vigilant to protect those around us, especially vulnerable populations.
- Current State of Montana Guidelines¹ must be followed. Events must also comply with county, tribal, and local governmental and health directives.
- Faculty and Staff should make decisions utilizing these guidelines and, in doing so, these decisions will be supported by MSU Extension Administration. Please contact your Direct Supervisor and/or Program Leader if you have questions.

Current Guidelines (beginning February 1, 2021):

- Extension events or gatherings should be managed in a way that accommodates CDC social distancing guidelines¹.
- Face Coverings: The statewide mask mandate remains in effect and requirements are outlined in Executive Order 2-2021¹. Regarding face coverings, programs held in counties should follow the Governor's directives¹ and on-campus programs should follow the guidelines as outlined by Montana State University².
- County, tribal, and local governmental and health directives may have more restrictive requirements in place. Again, events must also comply with county, tribal, and local governmental and health directives. Consult with the local public health office to understand local, tribal, and county guidelines.
- For future events:
 - Start the planning process early.
 - Consult with your Direct Supervisor and/or Program Leader.
 - Try to postpone decisions as long as possible, still allowing for adequate planning.
 - Consider alternatives such as postponement or remote delivery.
 - If a decision needs to be made, do so based on the current guidelines in place at the time of the decision.

1. <https://covid19.mt.gov/>

2. <https://www.montana.edu/health/coronavirus/health-safety/wear-a-mask.html>