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March 12, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Update

4-H Members, Families, & Friends,

Today, the Government of Nova Scotia released a statement to the province with an update on the situation with regards to the COVID-19 virus. Although Nova Scotia has not had a confirmed case of COVID-19 yet, we all need to do our part in remaining calm while being proactive and deliberate with our actions to help minimize or prevent the spread of this virus. Although, for many of us the repercussions may not seem overly alarming, for those who suffer from autoimmune diseases or health complications, the consequences could be severe.

As of right now, the Government of Nova Scotia is encouraging organizations and community groups to limit gatherings to no more than 150 people as they continue to monitor the situation. As we have already cancelled/rescheduled a couple of our upcoming 4-H Nova Scotia events, as a precaution, this forces us to consider the upcoming club and county rallies.

All Nova Scotia Government Departments' staff have been directed to cancel/postpone any non-essential travel both in and out of the province, as well as not to engage in events that would see groups of people gathering together. For us, this means all Agriculture Extension Coordinators (AECs) will not be present at the currently scheduled club and county rallies. It would be our recommendation that all club gatherings (meetings, project meetings, rallies) and county rallies be postponed until **April 15, 2020**, when we will be better able to reassess the situation. We understand the amount of work and preparation that goes into both participating in and organizing these events and that this news comes as a great disappointment. We are taking all of this into consideration and want to ensure we make the best decision for our members, parents, volunteers, and families' health and safety.

The NS Government has directed anyone who has travelled outside of Canada – parents and children alike – are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Nova Scotia.

At this time, it is important to continue to follow the proper hygiene practices (frequent hand washing, avoiding touching your face, sanitizing surfaces, staying home if feeling ill, etc.) while monitoring how we are feeling regularly. We are looking at this as 4-H Nova Scotia's opportunity to be proactive in helping slow the spread in our communities so that we are not forced to be reactive later.

Learn To Do By Doing

Facebook users can watch the Government's full update on the Nova Scotia Government Facebook Page. I have also attached the press release from Dr. Strang, NS Chief Medical Officer of Health, as well as a Hand Washing Poster if you would like to review. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours in 4-H,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Masters". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "M".

Scott Masters
President, 4-H Nova Scotia

Enclosure

SW