

# **Missouri Agricultural Education 2020-21 Operational Guidance**

Missouri Agricultural Education acknowledges that Ag Ed classrooms will need to look different this school year to ensure the safety of all students and instructors. To ensure we are preparing career ready students, the following guidance document has been prepared. Credit: Nebraska Career and Technical Education Guidance for Reopening, August 4, 2020. These recommendations have been vetted by Missouri Ag Ed staff. The goal of this document is to provide guidance in the variety of settings where Ag Ed takes place. The purpose of this document is to outline protocols schools should consider given their particular level of risk as determined by their Local Health Department and/or the Department of Health and Human Services. This document complements the DESE - Missouri School Reopening Guidance <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MO-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

## **Ag Ed Equipment and Workspaces**

It is recommended that a process and schedule be implemented to disinfect Ag Ed equipment and classrooms.

- Utilize [this guidance](#) for disinfecting equipment.
- Increase signage in the classroom with reminders to wash hands, glove, face covering, etc.
- Create folders or packets for each student to have or get digital copies of materials instead of using textbooks if possible.
- Follow [CDC Guidelines](#) on how to appropriately wear face coverings.

## **Ag Ed Classrooms (General)**

- Encourage individual work.
- If partner pairing is not an option, here are a few options to consider: rotation stations, more stations with tools/lab equipment/ etc.
- Create student cohorts within each class that only work together when students need peer help or are working on a project.
- Post limited occupancy expectations for smaller spaces (i.e storage areas, back rooms of school store, tool rooms, finishing rooms, locker areas, etc.)
- If working with a business or industry partner, limit in person contact and implement virtual meetings or phone calls.
- Limit outside visitors into the classroom (guest speakers) and try to connect in a virtual setting such as Zoom. When virtual experiences are not practical, social distancing guidelines should be followed.

- Follow local school district guidelines on disinfecting Ag Ed areas.
- Increase signage in the classroom with reminders to wash hands, glove, mask, etc.

## **Remote Ag Ed Instruction**

- If students are unable to attend in-person classes then equal access to quality Ag Ed instruction should be provided remotely.

<https://missouriffa.org/curriculum-login/>

## **Ag Mechanics Lab**

- Provide adequate, usable, and appropriate training, education, and informational material about classroom/shop functions and student health and safety, including proper hygiene practices and the use of any workplace controls (including PPE).
- Redesign workflow to decrease cohort interactions that meet the close contact criteria (contact within six (6) feet for several minutes or more).
- Have dedicated work areas/cells for each contact pod when possible.
- Six (6) feet distancing should be marked in queue lines (i.e. stationary tools, workbenches, tool cabinets, sinks, etc.).
- Post limited occupancy expectations for smaller spaces (i.e. finish/stain rooms, storage areas, etc.)

## **Animal Science Lab**

- The risk of animal-to-person spread is considered to be low.
- It is considered safe for students to handle and work with animals by following recommendations and guidelines.
- Encourage frequent hand hygiene when working with animals.
- Avoid unnecessary handling of all animals housed at the school or used in a lab
- Limit individuals into the animal laboratory to essential people (i.e. students in the class and teachers). Post signs to indicate public and other visitors not allowed.
- Ensure facilities and lab space has adequate ventilation for animals and people.
- Limit interactions and maintain 6 feet social distance between people working with animals in the lab area

## **Greenhouse**

- Post person capacity limit.
- Follow school district guidelines on wearing face coverings.
- Use hand sanitizer upon entry and after exiting the greenhouse.
- Only students and teachers should enter the greenhouse. Post signs on the greenhouse door indicating it is not open to the public.
- Conduct public sales of plants online or outside. Consider digital or online payments to decrease handling cash money, checks, and credit cards.

## **FFA**

- A plan addressing safety protocols for activities involving FFA members should be developed and discussed with administrators prior to the event.
  - When traveling to in-person events/meetings, please refer to [DESE Covid-19 Reopening Guidance](#) on school busses on page 4-5.
- Focus on providing as many opportunities for students as possible, anticipating disruptions.
- Consider if conferences, meetings, service projects, programs of work, and events can be conducted remotely if face to face meetings cannot take place.
- Follow local health department guidelines regarding social distancing, equipment, and events planning.
- Allow for members to meet during the school day within the school building, while practicing appropriate social distancing protocols, to participate in state or nationally sponsored virtual activities, hold chapter meetings, etc.
- Allow the adviser(s) and members to meet in appropriately-sized groups during the school day to prepare for competitive events, conduct chapter business, deliver programming, etc.
- State officers may participate in events and activities as long as appropriate social distancing protocols are followed.
- FFA's are an integral part of Ag Ed programs. FFA activities, programs, and resources should be incorporated into class curriculum and learning activities.
- Provide virtual opportunities for member involvement, conducting chapter business, etc.
- Utilize state and national organization resources for engaging members in a virtual setting. <https://missouriffa.org/curriculum-login/>

## **CDE/LDE Guidance**

- Stay home if your sick.
- Must wear a mask.
- Stay 6ft apart.
- Wash hands often.
- Utilize hand sanitizer.
- Sanitizing shared items within an event as needed (Ag. Mech for example).
- Sanitize tables/equipment used between events for locations used for more than one event.
- Care should be given to handling items when required during a specific CDE.
- Any other requirements/guidelines as requested by the HOST site.