

CURRENT INFORMATION ON CORONAVIRUS - COVID-19

March 10, 2020 Statement

As you are aware, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) continue to monitor the outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The leadership of the NY FFA, NYAAE, and Cornell University have been proactively working with local and state public health organizations to monitor the coronavirus outbreak and to minimize future community spread as well as to protect the health and safety of our agricultural communities.

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues, we regret to inform you that this weekend's FFA regional Substate competitions have been CANCELLED.

Effective Wednesday, March 11, 2020 we will be postponing or cancelling all large group scholastic gatherings, events/conferences and travel for our FFA Officers, State Staff, and Agricultural Education Leadership through April 5, 2020. We will reassess these events/travel restrictions no later than April 5, 2020, and will update you as soon as information is available.

We are exploring our options to reschedule postponed or cancelled events, and hope to have a new plan in place very soon.

While we understand that this cancellation is disruptive and disappointing, it is essential that we prioritize the health and safety of everyone involved within our organization – including students, advisors, chaperones, stakeholders and staff – and we take that role seriously.

We thank you for your understanding and patience. Should you have any immediate concerns, please contact us.

Best Wishes,

Shari Lighthall, Director, NYS Agricultural Education Outreach
Derek Hill, NY FFA Director
Gleason Walley, NYS FFA/NYAAE Governing Board Chair
Paul Perry, State Convention Committee Chair

March 6, 2020 Statement

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak continues to develop, we are monitoring the situation and assessing potential impacts on the New York State FFA. We are

sending this information out now only out of an abundance of caution so that we can proactively monitor this concern to protect the health and well-being of the Agricultural Education and FFA communities.

We are reviewing our planned events and will make decisions about holding these activities based on best available evidence and guidance from school and health officials. At this point state and local health officials have stated that the current risk to our communities remains low.

In the event that public health concerns dictate further restrictions on travel, group meetings, or gatherings, we will update you on any contingency plans that may need to be made to our upcoming FFA and agricultural education events.

Because the situation with respect to the coronavirus is so fluid, we encourage all our teaches to regularly review and follow the latest information from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>.

Please help us model the sharing of best practices for health and hygiene, taking proactive steps to prevent possible exposure and transmission. If any teacher, student, judge, or chaperone is ill, they are NOT to attend events. We also encourage teachers and students to limit contact by not shaking hands, hugging, and thoroughly washing hands on a regular basis. Most importantly; NY FFA should model appropriate contact, and use elbow and foot bumps when greeting each others.

In closing, New York FFA along with National FFA's first responsibility is the safety of everyone involved with our organization – including students, advisors, chaperones, stakeholders and staff – and we take that role seriously. We are here to assist in any way we can. Let us know what questions or concerns you may have, and how we can best support you.

Best Wishes,
Shari Lighthall, Director, NYS Agricultural Education Outreach
Derek Hill, NY FFA Director
Gleason Walley, NYS FFA/NYAAE Governing Board Chair
Paul Perry, State Convention Committee Chair

NATIONAL FFA STATEMENT ON CORONAVIRUS- COVID-19