

Modifications to COVID-19 Safety Procedures for California 4-H Shooting Sports Activities

All in-person 4-H activities must follow current COVID-19 safety procedures outlined by University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR) and the California State 4-H Office. Current procedures and associated resources can be found on the [COVID In-person Update](#) webpage. The following modifications have been developed specifically for shooting sports activities.

General Procedures Specific to Shooting Sports

- Maintain six feet of physical distance between shooting lanes. If the configuration of the range does not allow six foot distance between lanes, you may need to leave shooting lanes open to provide distancing.
- If equipment or ammunition is stored in a trailer or other confined space, only allow one person in at a time.
- If whistles are used on the shooting line, it is recommended that clubs transition to an electronic whistle or other audible device that is not used in the mouth. Alternatively, if whistles must be used, they must be dedicated to the person using whistle.
- Whenever possible, participants should use the same bow, arrows, or rifle for the duration of the activity.
 - If this is not possible and equipment is shared, sanitize between each use.
- Sanitize all equipment following each meeting.

Note: Equipment includes but is not limited to firearms, bows, arrows, shooting rests, cleaning rods, etc.

Use of Masks in Shooting Sports

When required by policy, local health orders, or site rules, participants must wear masks at all times, unless they have approached the shooting line. Masks present a unique challenge within the context of shooting sports activities for two reasons:

1. Masks may cause safety glasses to fog, thereby impairing visibility for participants on the shooting line.
2. Masks may become entangled in the bowstrings of archery participants.

The following modifications are in place to ensure the safety of shooting sports participants:

- While on the shooting line, participants are allowed to remove their mask.
- Masks should be placed in the participant's pocket or on a sanitized surface within reach.
- Once participants have finished shooting, they must put their mask back on.
- Adults should not approach a participant on the shooting line until they are both wearing a mask.
 - This does not apply in urgent situations. If choice must be made between donning masks and reaching a participant in time to prevent an accident or injury, choose to reach the participant in time. Masks can be put back on once the situation is handled and there is no longer cause for concern.
- Range Safety Officers are allowed to remove their masks to conduct safety briefings, communicate range rules, and give commands, but should maintain at least 6' distance from other persons, if possible.