

Here is a communication for your UC Master Food Preserver volunteer groups. It's important we are consistent in our messaging organizationally so this is similar to what UC Master Gardener sent out. I intend to send an email to all active volunteers tomorrow via VMS. Here is a near-final draft of the communication (see below). Please let me know if you have questions or concerns via email, khpanarella@ucanr.edu

Volunteer Email:

Dear [NAME],

As stewards of food safety information, we know the risks that we are associated with food-borne illnesses. The spread of coronavirus disease, COVID-19, is a new kind of challenge. **The health and safety of UC Master Food Preserver volunteers, staff and our extended community is our number one priority.** To the best of our knowledge, no volunteer with the UC Master Food Preserver Program has tested positive for the virus.

While the mission of our program is to extend research-based information, our value is in the excellence and passion of our volunteers. UC Master Food Preserver volunteers are strongly encouraged to prioritize their own health and wellness at this time.

Please communicate with your local program coordinator or advisor if you choose to adjust your volunteer involvement or activities as the situation evolves.

The University of California is monitoring this developing situation very closely, staying in regular contact with federal agencies, health organizations, and other experts. We have collected and linked resources below to help keep you informed.

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH):
www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx
- County's Public Health Officer
www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/LocalHealthServicesAndOffices.aspx
- UC ANR Environmental Health and Safety Coronavirus Updates
ucanr.edu/Programs/emergency/Current_Health_Alerts/

Thank you for your patience as we continue to navigate through this challenging time together. We encourage you to stay in communication with your local program regarding locally relevant program information and guidance.

I am also including the guidance sent to 4-H volunteers which has some good suggestions when considering canceling events.

Best,

Katie