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Dear 4-H Members, Families and 4-H Volunteers,

As members of UMaine 4-H, we have asked you to be patient these past few months as our in-person programs, activities and events were shut down due to COVID-19. We are pleased to announce that we will begin to gradually restart in-person Extension programming. We know that some of you may still not feel ready or comfortable with in-person activities and that's okay. We also know that many of you are anxious to resume some form of participation and we want to try to make that happen.

We know this unprecedented time has been hard on our families, our programs and has changed how we can proceed. Currently, the COVID-19 data in our state looks promising. We are also aware that things can change very rapidly. We plan to follow the guidance from the Maine CDC and local school districts in their Red-Yellow-Green statuses. We will also be constantly monitoring the spread of the virus and will send out changes to our guidelines as soon as possible if they occur.

Knowing that, we are cautiously optimistic about moving forward with allowing in-person events. It is important to note this process will be gradual. All 4-H Volunteer led gatherings/meetings will be small, for now that means 10 or less total people. They will also need to take place outside, or in a well-ventilated space like a barn or garage (not in homes). Face coverings will also be required for all people present (until there is six feet of social distance between participants). These requirements will be revisited as new information emerges and weather conditions change.

During the previous months many have been connecting virtually, this is still very much an option (and preferred). Please check in with your 4-H Club Leader about upcoming club plans. Some clubs will choose to continue virtual meetings/activities and some might choose ways to gather under the new guidelines. It will be up to individual families to decide if/how they wish to engage with those offerings.

County staff may also be able to provide other engagement opportunities for independent members or others who are interested. These offerings can be virtual, in-person, or a combination.

If you have any questions about meeting/activity requirements, or other related issues please reach out to your local county 4-H staff. They can help you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Hannah Carter'.

Dr. Hannah Carter,  
Dean of University of Maine Cooperative Extension

[www.extension.umaine.edu](http://www.extension.umaine.edu)

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