



## **ILLNESSES, COMMUNICABLE DISEASES,**

Statement for use on event letters regarding illnesses and communicable diseases.

Georgia 4-H strives for participants to arrive at events and activities healthy, and therefore reserves the right to not admit those who are ill or pose a communicable disease risk. If participants arrive at a 4-H event/activity ill or pose a communicable disease risk, parent/guardian will be required to pick them up immediately. Similarly, if symptoms develop while at the event/activity, parent/guardian will also be responsible for timely pick up.

Based on the event type, a pre-screening process may be required. When that requirement is in place, it will be communicated with other event details.

Communicable illnesses may include, but are not limited to: COVID-19, flu, head lice, mononucleosis, norovirus, pink eye, ring worm, or strep throat.

# BEST PRACTICES FOR HEALTH SCREENINGS

## Overview of Health Screenings

Health screenings prior to engaging in 4-H activities can be a critical strategy to reducing risk associated with exposure to infectious illnesses and communicable diseases. The goal of the health screening is to keep sick 4-H'ers or those with signs/symptoms of infectious illnesses from attending. The establishment of effective communication and consistent routines can contribute to long term success of health screenings. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ✓ Encouraging parents/guardians to keep sick 4-H'ers at home
- ✓ Communicating the expectation of health screenings to parents/guardians on all appropriate communication about events/activities
- ✓ Preparing parents/guardians to have a pick up plan in place should symptoms develop during an event/activity

## Level of Health Screening

The implementation of health screenings may vary based on the length of activity, type of activity, or location of the activity. Some district or state 4-H events/activities may require health screenings; and if that is the case, the requirement will be communicated ahead of time.

### ***Local/Day Events***

At a minimum, 4-H leaders should not allow the participation of sick or symptomatic 4-H'ers at local or day events. If the 4-H'er was not permitted at school or sent home from school with symptoms or exposure, this would also prevent them from participating in 4-H activities.

### ***Out of County/Pooled Transportation Events/Extended Day Activities***

County 4-H leaders are strongly encouraged to implement a health screening that includes a symptom check prior to allowing participation of 4-H'ers when traveling out of county, pooling transportation, or prior to extended day events or activities.

### ***Overnight Events***

County 4-H leaders are strongly encouraged to implement a health screening that includes a symptom check AND a temperature check prior to departure for pooled transportation (or prior to engagement for individual transportation) for overnight events or activities. Additionally, daily health checks are strongly encouraged, ideally each morning and each evening, throughout the duration of the event. Ongoing health checks (including both symptom and temperature checks), should be documented on a log and maintained for record keeping purposes.

*\*This information is subject to change\**