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## **Important Changes to the National Healthy Living Summit and National 4-H Council's COVID 19 Protocols for its 2022 National PYD Experiences**

- National 4-H Council is committed to the health and safety of all youth and adults participating in its National Positive Youth Development (PYD) Experiences as we continue to experience the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We are monitoring and continue to follow the latest CDC guidelines as well as any new directives or guidance from federal, the District of Columbia, State of Maryland and/or Montgomery County as we plan for in-person National 4-H Healthy Living and Agri-Science Summits as well as Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF). This includes:
  - On January 4, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan declared a 30-day state of emergency based on the recent surge of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations across the state.
  - The Hyatt Regency Bethesda, host hotel for both Summits and CWF, is located in Montgomery County, MD, which is currently classified as an area of high COVID transmission by the CDC.
  - Effective January 15, 2022, per Mayor's Order 2021-148, the District of Columbia will adopt a [city wide vaccination entry requirement](#) that requires COVID-19 vaccination for those ages twelve and older to enter certain indoor facilities within the city.
  - While this new requirement *does not* impact the activities currently planned for either Summit, the Montgomery County, MD Council is currently considering similar vaccination entry requirements. If these are adopted by the county, National 4-H Council and the Hyatt Regency Bethesda (the hotel hosting both Summits and CWF) will need to comply.
- The current COVID surge and omicron variant have also introduced new complexities as states begin to plan their travel to and participation in the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit, scheduled for February 10-13, 2022.
- After consulting with Extension leadership and the Healthy Living Summit planning team, **Council has decided to postpone the National 4-H Healthy Living Summit. The new date will be April 21-24, 2022.** Any participant currently registered for the Summit who is unable to attend during the new April dates will receive a full refund.
- The dates for the National 4-H Agri-Science Summit as well as CWF have not changed.
  - National 4-H Agri-Science Summit: March 10-13, 2022
  - CWF: June 5 – July 8, 2022

- Current COVID protocols for all three national events have also been updated to require proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test within 48 hours (reduced from 72) of arrival in Bethesda, MD. These protocols may be further updated prior to or during the event(s), based on any new directives or guidance from federal, the District of Columbia, State of Maryland and/or Montgomery County governments. [Review the complete protocols](#)
- We hope that these proactive changes will provide additional time and flexibility for states to plan their travel and participation in these national experiences and for Council to host you as safely as possible. Should you have questions, please contact Jennifer Mclver, Vice President, Extension Engagement at [jmciver@fourhcouncil.edu](mailto:jmciver@fourhcouncil.edu).