



SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We are actively monitoring guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) on safety measures to help slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) and variants.

After months of decline, North Carolina is experiencing a rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among those who are unvaccinated. The Delta variant, which is now the predominant strain of the COVID-19 virus in North Carolina, is significantly more contagious than the original virus. You may monitor North Carolina [counties of high or substantial levels of transmission](#) as defined by the CDC for current case numbers in determining your level of engagement in public programs.

We can not at this time request or require proof of vaccination status of participants in our programs. We do, however, encourage a voluntary and honest sharing of information with co-participants for in-person experiences, especially before carpooling or close contact occurs.

We encourage all participants to make conscious, courteous decisions based on your own and others' wishes and needs for safety.

Following national, state and local guidelines, Adult Education Programs at the Arboretum continues to reinforce safety by recommending these precautions for program participants:

- **In these times, the Arboretum's expectation is that you will self screen for illness prior to arrival for class.** Please follow all [CDC guidelines](#) regarding proper sanitation and hygiene measures. The CDC's [Coronavirus Self-Checker](#) is an interactive tool for self-screening.
- Regardless of vaccination status, you should still be alert for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), especially if you've been around someone who is sick or if you have been notified of possible exposure. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get [tested](#) and [stay home](#) and away from others.
- **For indoor settings:** Continue to practice the 3 Ws: Wear a face covering in all indoor public indoor settings. Wait 6 feet apart in all public settings. Wash your hands often. [Current Buncombe County guidelines](#) recommend that all individuals should wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status when in all indoor public spaces.
- **For outdoor settings:** Always try to maintain distance while in a group. We will work with instructors to plan locations carefully with distance in mind; participants may at times be in close physical proximity to one another on a trail. Although face coverings are optional in outdoor settings, we recommend all participants arrive wearing face coverings out of consideration for the group's needs and then determine the level of comfort for removing. Unvaccinated and immunocompromised individuals should consider remaining masked. Participants should consider in advance their level of comfort engaging in outdoor group activities.

Let's be mindful to keep each other safe and healthy.

For additional information: Email adulthoodeducation@ncarboretum.org