



SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Please note that these guidelines are subject to change as local, state, and CDC guidelines are revised. 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 and protect our staff and program participants.

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.

Any scenario in which people gather together indoors or out poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. The risks of COVID-19 exposure are less outdoors; however measures such as being fully vaccinated, wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, and good hygiene are known to reduce risk. The following recommendations outline how we commit to reducing risk for program participants. For these safety measures to be as effective as possible requires commitment and diligence from *all* participants, families and Arboretum staff.

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

Changes to Mask Guidelines:

Youth Education's policy regarding mask use is based upon the current Buncombe County Community COVID-19 Level, according to the CDC. This is effective beginning Friday, March 11, 2022.

Green: Low

CDC Guidance: Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines; [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms
TNCA Youth Education: Masks are **optional** for staff and participants **indoors and outdoors**.

Yellow: Medium

CDC Guidance: If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions; Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines; [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms
TNCA Youth Education: Masks are **optional** for staff and participants **outdoors** and **recommended indoors**.

High: Red

CDC Guidance: Wear a [mask](#) indoors in public; Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines; [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms; Additional precautions may be needed for people [at high risk for severe illness](#)
TNCA Youth Education: Masks are **recommended** for staff and participants **outdoors and indoors**.

Additional Guidelines:

Before coming to the Arboretum please make sure that ALL participants (students, campers, teachers, chaperones, parents, guardians):

- Have no fever or other COVID-19 symptoms recognized by the [CDC](#). The CDC's [Coronavirus Self-Checker](#) is an interactive tool for self-screening. A child may attend programming with these symptoms *if* they have a negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of programming
- No known contact or exposure to a COVID-19 carrier in the last 7 days following participation in a public program so that we may contact co-participants if required

While at the Arboretum ALL participants should:

- Wash hands frequently- especially before and after meals and when visiting the restrooms
- Be ready for the entirety of the day to take place outside except for bathroom breaks

While at the Arboretum participants can expect:

- That all equipment will be sanitized before the beginning of each program
- That all Arboretum staff working the program have passed a daily COVID-19 health screening

If a participant becomes ill during programming, we ask that a parent or guardian picks up that child immediately.

If for some reason any participant/visitor of the Arboretum tests positive for COVID-19 within two weeks of the program, please notify the Program Coordinator immediately.

By participating in Youth Education Programs, you:

- Acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk of being exposed to or infected by COVID-19.
- Accept such risks and volunteer to participate with full understanding of the dangers involved. By participating in programs, you waive and release the Arboretum, its employees, agents, officers, and representatives from any and all claims, costs, liability, and expense for any injury, loss, or damage whether known, anticipated, or unanticipated arising from your voluntary visit and/or program participation.

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

Thank you for taking the time to read the Safety Guidelines of the Arboretum's Youth Education Programs before visiting.

Contact rpreyer@ncarboretum.org with questions or concerns.
Rich Preyer, Youth Education Programs Coordinator