Washington FFA is aware of the growing concern about the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the health of our community is very important to us.

Currently, no state FFA events have been canceled, and we will continue to work closely with our partners at the event location Health Districts to track COVID-19 to receive guidance regarding our upcoming events and review our plans to keep our community safe. The safety of members and advisors is a primary focus for our organization and we encourage all members of the WAFFA community to follow the prevention guidelines distributed by the Center for Disease Control. If a student, advisor, or chaperone/guest is ill, do not bring them to FFA events to allow them to heal and to protect others.

Remember the best way to help prevent contracting or spreading the virus is:

As simple as it sounds, effective handwashing is the best defense against illness. Viruses like COVID-19 are “enveloped,” meaning that a fatty outer covering surrounds it. Soap and water dissolve the viral envelope, which inactivates them, lessening your chance of getting sick. The CDC recommends scrubbing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds (about the length of time it takes to hum “Happy Birthday” to yourself twice) before rinsing and drying. Heat alone won’t kill the virus, so hot-air hand dryers aren’t a good substitute for old-fashioned handwashing. If you can’t wash your hands with soap and water, a good alternative is an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

We encourage you to monitor reliable sources on COVID-19 including:

- Your Local Health District
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention -- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

You can also call the hotline operated by the state health department if you have questions. That number is 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

Suggested broad-based community-wide actions to encourage in your chapters and classrooms:

- Increase hand washing
- Improve respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette
- Enhance social distancing (>6’)
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch areas and common surfaces
- Encourage students to remain home through the duration of a respiratory illness
- Encourage students to remain home if family members have a respiratory illness

I’ve also attached some posters from the CDC that you can use.

~Abbie