

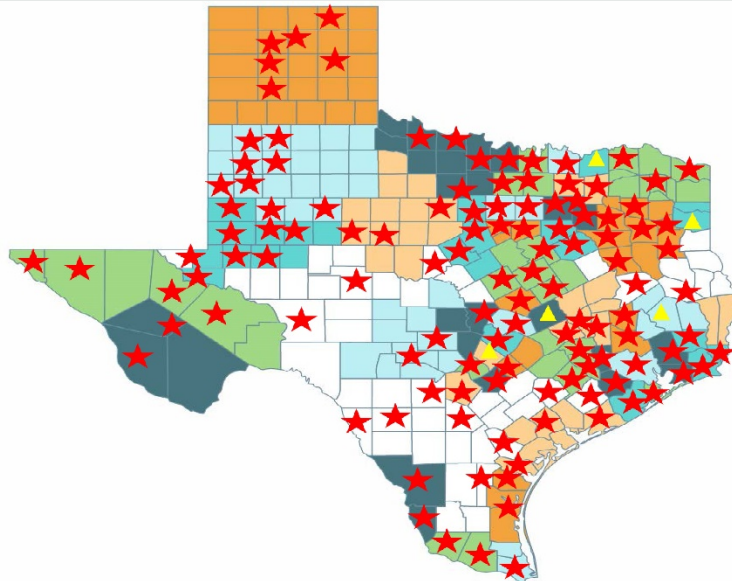
Texas Master Naturalist Program PREVIOUS COVID GUIDELINES

UPDATE 12.9.2020

TMN Program Policy for Return to Service Guidelines

The Texas Master Naturalist Program has issued the additional statewide policy effective immediately:

- *All multi-county TMN Chapters will follow the STRICTEST level of guidance for the counties in their chapter territory.*
 - i.e in a chapter with three counties – one green, one yellow and one red – that chapter will follow the RED level county guidance issued by AgriLife.
- *TMN Chapters MUST follow AgriLife's weekly county level updates & color coded county lists only*
 - County designation may differ by other municipalities/local/federal maps
 - IF Local City/County restrictions are more strict – those supersede AgriLife's guidelines
- *TMN Program/Chapter operations are NOT considered Agency Mission Critical under these Return to Service Guidelines*



The map above represents the counties coded red and yellow as they overlap with the TMN Chapter Map. Please refer to the official county list linked below for the final determination for each county.

Return to Service Guidance from AgriLife's Dr Angela Burkham, 12.9.20

With the recent rise in COVID 19 cases, we are very focused on the best practices and guidance that will not only keep our employees safe but our volunteers and clientele also. We began recently to track specifically some key factors by each county. In the past, we have not developed face to face programming guidance related to local

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positivity rates. We feel like with the current surge in positive cases in communities and our employees, the overwhelming effects on health care systems and the need for community response to the pandemic, we must change the way we look at agency guidance.

The attached guidance will take into effect December 9 and run through December 23rd, unless factors significantly change.

AgriLife Extension will be assembling an advisory group to assist the agency in making future decisions. This group will consist of our experts and specialists in public health and agency response. Our data source for decision making is the Community Profile Report distributed by the Department of Health and Human Services (USA) and the US Department of Homeland Security. When making decisions we are looking at positivity rates over a seven day average. This advisory group will take into account the latest data and science available, enabling our agency to make the most informed decision for our employees and stakeholders. Updated guidance should come again on December 11.

[FINAL-COVID-County-Level-List-Alpha-by-District-12.4.20](#) [Download](#)

[Agency-Guidance-12.4.20](#) [Download](#)

NOTE: Face coverings are required at all events. Outdoors, masks are required when a six-foot social distancing radius cannot be maintained. All facilities of The Texas A&M University System require the use of facial coverings. Employees are asked to clearly communicate the requirement for face coverings but are not asked to physically enforce the requirement.

Red Level: Counties with two of three factors pertaining to positivity rate of greater than 8% or more, OR a rapid rise in cases OR a hot spot

- No face to face Extension-hosted or Extension-sponsored events.
- No guest speaking or presenting at other entities' events.
- No overnight events.
- Mission critical events may be considered on a case by case basis. Requests should be made through direct supervisor.
- Essential training related to continuing education and emergency response may be approved by the executive associate director on a case by case basis.

Yellow Level: Counties with a positivity rate of greater than 8% or more, OR a rapid rise in cases OR a hotspot

- Group meetings with a limit of 10 people at 75% capacity of space or less are allowed only if social distancing can be practiced.
- No overnight events.
- AgriLife Extension requires a screening form for each participant at day youth events.
- Seek alternative methods to deliver face to face meetings and educational programs.

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- Mission critical events may be considered on a case by case basis. Requests should be made through direct supervisor.
- Essential training related to continuing education and emergency response may be approved by the executive associate director on a case by case basis.

Green Level:

- Group meetings with a limit of 50 people at 75% capacity or less are allowed only if social distancing can be practiced. If greater than 50 attendees, a preparedness plan must be submitted and approved by the supervisor. (Employees in large offices do not count against this max if they are not part of the meeting and remain socially distanced.)
- All overnight events require a submission of a preparedness plan that is approved by the supervisor.
- AgriLife Extension requires a screening form for each participant at day youth events and all overnight events and programs.
- Daily temperature checks are required at all overnight events.
- For individuals seeking alternative methods of delivery for traditional face-to-face meetings and educational programs, the Digital Education unit has put together a resource on best practices and tools that are currently supported by AgriLife.