



LEARNING 4 LIFE FARM

Learning 4 Life Farm Weather Policy

January 1, 2025

Purpose

The purpose of this Weather Policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors at Learning 4 Life Farm during adverse weather conditions. This policy outlines the procedures for weather-related closures, delays, or cancellations, taking into consideration the unique environment of a working farm.

1. Criteria for Weather-Related Adjustments

Learning 4 Life Farm will consider the following factors when deciding whether to close, delay, or cancel activities due to weather:

- **Severe Weather:** Heavy rain, snow, ice, extreme temperatures, or storms that could make farm operations unsafe.
 - **Unsafe Travel Conditions:** Dangerous road conditions or impassable routes to the farm.
 - **Hazardous Conditions at the Farm:** Flooding, high winds, or lightning that could present a risk to participants, staff, and animals.
 - **Temperature Extremes:** When temperatures are dangerously high or low, particularly in relation to outdoor activities and farm work.
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2. Weather-Related Closure and Delay Procedures

- **Farm Closures:** If weather conditions are determined to be unsafe, the farm will close for the day, and all activities will be canceled. This includes educational programs, field trips, and farm tours.
 - **Learning 4 Life Farm will be closed in the event that The Learning Spectrum- Johnstown is closed. Learning 4 Life farm may also close independently of local schools if conditions are deemed unsafe.**
- **Delayed Openings:** If conditions are expected to improve, a delayed opening may be implemented. This allows staff and participants to arrive safely while waiting for

conditions to improve. For example, the farm may open later in the day to allow roads to clear or temperatures to warm.

- Decisions regarding delays will be made on a case-by-case basis.
 - **Early Dismissals:** If weather conditions worsen during the day, an early dismissal may be announced. This would allow staff and participants to return home before conditions become unsafe.
 - **Outdoor Activity Modifications:** In cases where only specific outdoor activities (e.g., farm chores, outdoor lessons) are impacted, these activities may be adjusted or moved indoors as needed.
 - Students will be limited to 20 minutes of exposure to temperatures between 0 and 32 degrees fahrenheit, as well as when temperatures exceed 90 degrees.
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3. Communication of Closures, Delays, and Cancellations

Learning 4 Life Farm will notify scheduled groups of closures, delays, or early dismissal via phone and/or email as soon as a decision is made.

4. Decision-Making Timeline

- **Morning Closures/Delays:** Decisions about closures or delays will be made by **8:00 AM** to provide ample time for schools to adjust their schedules.
 - **Early Dismissal:** If weather conditions worsen during the day, the decision for an early dismissal will be made as early as possible, with updates provided throughout the day.
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5. Make-Up Days and Rescheduling

- **Rescheduling Programs:** In the event of a cancellation, Learning 4 Life Farm will work to reschedule programs for a later date that is mutually agreeable.
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6. Special Considerations

- **Farm Activities:** Some farm activities may be more vulnerable to weather conditions than others (e.g., animal care or outdoor farm lessons). The farm will assess each situation to determine which activities are feasible under specific weather conditions.
 - Students will be limited to 20 minutes of exposure to temperatures between 0 and 32 degrees fahrenheit, as well as when temperatures exceed 90 degrees.
- **Safety Gear:** Participants should be prepared for variable weather conditions by wearing appropriate clothing including:

- Boots, Coats, Hats, Gloves

Learning 4 Life Farm has a limited supply of gardening gloves, winter work gloves and winter hats that can be distributed if necessary. All items are washed onsite after each use. If students do not come prepared with appropriate clothing/gear for the weather and/or refuse to wear safety gear onsite, students may be limited to what activities they can participate in at the farm. This is at the discretion of farm staff at all times.

- **Animal Safety:** In all weather-related decisions, the safety and well-being of the farm's animals will be a top priority. Animal care will continue regardless of weather conditions.
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7. Parent and Staff Responsibilities

- **Parents:** Parents are encouraged to check for weather updates and to dress their child appropriately for the given conditions.
 - **Staff:** Staff should be prepared for possible changes in the schedule or activities. Staff will receive updates on any closures, delays, or changes to the day's activities as the situation develops.
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8. Emergency Weather Conditions

In the event of extreme weather (e.g., a severe storm, tornado, or blizzard), Learning 4 Life Farm will prioritize the safety of participants and staff, following emergency protocols to ensure safe shelter and evacuation if necessary.

Conclusion

The safety of our students, staff, and the animals at Learning 4 Life Farm is of utmost importance. We will make weather-related decisions carefully and communicate these decisions promptly. We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we work to ensure a safe and educational experience for all participants.

***This policy is designed to be flexible and clear in ensuring safety, while taking into account the unique nature of farm-based learning. All decisions will be guided by the National Weather Service guidelines and real time weather updates by local authorities. <https://www.weather.gov/>



Wind Chill Chart

