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| **In-person training and service events organized or led by VMN volunteers (either for other chapter members or the public):*** In-person programming is allowed following the conditions below, but VCE strongly encourages the continuation of virtual programming while the state is in Phase II.
* In-person programming is only allowed if certain requirements can be met and the event/program is conducted in accordance with current State and local guidelines in Phase II of the [Forward Virginia](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010EjpwKJPSQ-vfhl6gt5NzSXREfwCi_LXNFjOP586BLyAdyVC2MhZ3wOp5Jp23qafiBYvTJnYMT7BBc7S4jbi2P8Z_Zx3EeBj70VVgCqDAqWrBfwOBYWrv7FoZlwG5NuGavjpF0pljml8po1m2O9KVbrSWdKFnXTz3_nMyhl7KDvVygkBEOqMC1LMMl7cvxqhDMsBe1I61mEP_VakWf1UcQ6gq4f8UtNz0OvLza6teLvu6UT8Wfjjk2IT5RH7rMxNR8QRt_RpHYvm-2uIsN3hjQw78TJ2ooDt&c=_GUoQgQTSOvi9mU5BUMSkXroBM5ebP58YOJcVr4aPBSTAo1kvSeqJQ==&ch=4FZbXARC9SbGkFn5PPG3myBQC757kmcr0_9F8n7WphGHsYM3_FIDGQ==) plan. In addition, in-person programming is limited to:
* Indoor programming-Group size maximum is 22 (including staff/presenters/leaders) where social distancing of six feet apart is maintained.
* Outdoor programming-Group size maximum is 50 (including staff/presenters/leaders) where social distancing of six feet apart is maintained.
* Specific event guidance/checklist can be found [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010EjpwKJPSQ-vfhl6gt5NzSXREfwCi_LXNFjOP586BLyAdyVC2MhZ3wOp5Jp23qafl2gazbynk0jY-fi3D5mqAZSK7KXxSZwlmE4dC4abNhrlKgtUsR-j-AOZne_UeV7MSUJXomkDaeuBv7DU-QlCs1_U8ZQtdSa-Yrt45EvySjnQ12Kac6K7XcK581g8vfpNdWvokCVntz9VApy56OjPQqJpKRHIYlMACNnqLkn73qMQprqPF-bHhfhOLspY09Y7zglF3bK98jA=&c=_GUoQgQTSOvi9mU5BUMSkXroBM5ebP58YOJcVr4aPBSTAo1kvSeqJQ==&ch=4FZbXARC9SbGkFn5PPG3myBQC757kmcr0_9F8n7WphGHsYM3_FIDGQ==). VMN volunteers who are leading or organizing in-person activities need to consult and use this checklist.
* Volunteer participation must be fully voluntary or conducted virtually. Many volunteers may fall in the vulnerable or at-risk category and cannot be required to fulfill obligations at this time. As we’ve stated before, we do not want VMN volunteers to feel obligated or pressured to conduct their service activities right now. We are not going to automatically make a volunteer inactive if they were not able to volunteer in 2020, so long as they have the intention of being active in the program in the future. We anticipate having a reduction in the hours requirement for recertification this year and an extension in the time allowed for volunteers to achieve their first-time certification. We will send a separate email about changes to certification requirements in mid-July.
* If your chapter decides to resume in-person activities such as chapter meetings, we encourage you to provide a virtual option for any volunteers not comfortable resuming in-person contact. For many chapters, it may be a better option to continue having fully virtual chapter meetings, especially given all the limitations in terms of group size, spacing out seating, etc.
* If your chapter is considering having a fall basic training course, please contact me so that we can talk through if/how it could work.

 **In-person training and service events organized by other agencies/partners/organizations:*** The above guidelines pertain mainly to events that VMN chapters and volunteers are organizing or leading. I recognize that VMN volunteers also attend in-person events organized by other groups and agencies for which they do not have a leadership role at all.
* VMN chapter leaders do not need to pre-screen every activity put on by another organization to find out if they follow the same checklist that we need to follow if we are the organizers. Instead, we ask that chapters continue to approve projects/activities in the same manner they normally would, and that VMN volunteers use their own personal judgement to decide whether to participate in an approved continuing education or service event if it is organized by another group.
* If a VMN volunteer does participate in an in-person event with another organization, we ask that the volunteer keep themselves and others safe by:
* maintaining physical distancing from other people at the event
* following [Governor Northam’s order related to face masks](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=0010EjpwKJPSQ-vfhl6gt5NzSXREfwCi_LXNFjOP586BLyAdyVC2MhZ3wOp5Jp23qaf3zDq2b4e0l_J6ESxQ7-aBsLaMHPBOCMdfRqaKDXkRJw9Lp6FE4uhSW5wQotjOBeF2KrGTmbuzHmKitoh2WEW0aQ5jX1qoLFf7i8gputpavWsWE9uM4Yg-35VVnasQCQPfmik-6mkz8kbin0g62s7_9IYDptxgYoIgtVa1I2eERBrdGxO7FRgv5d6-GAby9sr65RWIje_cwwmt4FfoA8mS6GouX5COKy8LyRZe73_-LSmU-Dhi4b5SGO9Mq4Z9YnxE822T6srR1XfbQ2qp9oGjuAJCvCanOoAXIt4sjzWzn3O3Q2Y8OB3ZA==&c=_GUoQgQTSOvi9mU5BUMSkXroBM5ebP58YOJcVr4aPBSTAo1kvSeqJQ==&ch=4FZbXARC9SbGkFn5PPG3myBQC757kmcr0_9F8n7WphGHsYM3_FIDGQ==) where applicable
* avoiding sharing of equipment.

 One last bit of information: I am going to be on personal leave June 27-July 12, which is why I was in a hurry to get these new guidelines to you soon after I received them today. I realize that you may have related questions that come up during that time when you try to apply these guidelines to your own situations. If you could please start by consulting with your chapter advisors to work through the situation, that would be of great help! Your advisors are here to provide that kind of assistance. Otherwise, it may be a few weeks before I am able to get back to you.  Thank you all so very much for your leadership. I know from conversations with many of you that you have put a lot of time and effort into keeping your chapters connected during this time and making alternate plans. I appreciate all of it!Michelle PrysbyVMN Program Directormprysby@vt.edu434-872-4571 |

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| cluster of pink milkweed flowers with a bee nectaring on them |

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| *The bees are very busy on our milkweed these days!* |

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