

Due to the Governor Inslee's extension of the 'Stay Home, Stay Healthy' emergency order, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has cancelled all in-person hunter education classes through June 19. The situation will be reassessed as more details become available.

**So, now what? OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE:**

- **Students at least 9 years of age:** These students can take the online hunter education course and a Virtual Field Day. The Virtual Field Day replaces the in-person Field Skills Evaluation during the COVID-19 emergency. The entire course takes approximately 10 hours to complete. Students can complete the course in multiple sittings.

Steps:

1. Complete course 1:
    - Register for and complete the online hunter education course at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/washington/>.
  2. Complete course 2:
    - Next, register for and complete the online Virtual Field Day course at <https://www.huntercourse.com/virtualfieldday/>. (Note, the VFD course completion certificate is NOT VALID for a license purchase).
  3. Sign your hunter-ed.com certificate
    - Upon completing the Virtual Field Day course, please sign into <https://www.hunter-ed.com/washington/> to print and sign your course completion certificate. This will serve as your official certificate (once signed, the certificate is VALID for license purchase).
  4. You will also receive an orange postcard-type hunter education certificate in the mail at a later date.
- **Students under 9 years of age:** These students can still take the online course but are required to attend a field skills evaluation class once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. Alternatively, they may choose to take a traditional classroom course once in-person courses are again offered.
  - **Hunter Education Deferral:** Prospective hunters at least 10 years of age may qualify for the Hunter Education Deferral. The deferral program allows a one-year, once-in-a-lifetime deferral of hunter education training for individuals new to hunting who are accompanied by an experienced hunter. Note this is not available to people who had a deferral in the past, even if they did not purchase a license. Please see program requirements at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/requirements/education/deferral-program>. Deferral applications are submitted and processed via email, which currently takes 1-2 business days. Once approved, you can pay the deferral fee and purchase a hunting license online or at a license dealer. **At this time, please do not send your application through the U.S. Postal Service.**

- **Enroll in a later course:** You may choose to postpone completing the hunter education requirement and enroll in a class that begins later this year. Traditional classroom courses and online courses with the in-person field skills evaluation will be available after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

If you need assistance, please email [huntered@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:huntered@dfw.wa.gov), or call 360-902-8111. Hunter education staff respond to emails and phone messages as soon as possible.

We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused. We will do everything we can to assist you during this challenging time to help you get outdoors.

Wishing you good health, and good, safe hunting!