

Black Swamp Area Council

COVID SCOUTING SAFE PLANNING GUIDE

* COVID Scouting Safe Planning Guide is subject to change with updated COVID-19 guidance from local, state, and federal sources.

Updated 10-7-21

The following is meant to serve as guidance to help units plan how to safely conduct Scouting activities. These are best practices developed with consideration of updated recommendations from the CDC, and in consultation with the local health department, to provide for the safety of all Scouts and their families. Unit program should be conducted in accordance with current guidelines from the state of Ohio and CDC with approval of the unit's chartered organization and subject to the current COVID-19 protocols of any meeting/activity facility. We encourage unit leadership to review these recommendations to determine how to safely operate and plan the best path forward for their Scouting programs.

* Abide by guidance and restrictions from the state or county for your activity destination as well as your point of origin, if applicable.

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* Always consult with your Chartered Organization before conducting an activity, and abide by any additional guidelines provided by the organization.

* Should you have questions or concerns regarding the safe restart of Scouting in your unit, please contact your District Executive :

<https://www.blackswampbsa.org/about-us/council-staff/63352>



1. Develop your Scout Unit's COVID-19 'COVID Scouting Safe' plan with your unit committee.



2. Share your plan with your Scout Unit's Chartered Organization. Discuss other requirements and guidelines they may have in place and if your Scout unit has permission to begin using their facilities/ space for meetings.



3. Communicate your unit's plan to your Scouting families. Be sensitive to all families and consider that many Scouting participants are not age-eligible to receive the vaccine. Parents should only resume Scouting when they are comfortable. Parents are highly encouraged to ask their unit leadership questions about the unit's plan to restart Scouting safely and a unit should ONLY begin meeting if social distancing can be assured.



4. Monitor and adjust your unit's plan to be current with any new local, state, or federal changes.
As always, follow the Guide to Safe Scouting and follow the 7 Tenets of Prevention:

1. Properly wearing a face covering/mask when appropriate.
2. Take care of your self – make yourself an inhospitable host for this virus through healthy lifestyle practices. E.g. eating well, getting plenty of rest, etc.
3. Practice social distancing. Keeping at least 6 feet between you and others during interaction.
4. Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer throughout the day.
5. Avoid touching your face unless you have just washed your hands.
6. Cough or sneeze into your elbow – even when you have a face covering on.
7. If you are sick – stay at home.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Black Swamp Area Council fully supports the right of every individual to ensure their own safety and well-being. A person may wear a mask and take additional safety precautions at any time if they prefer to do so.
2. While national, state, and local guidance is generally provided, our chartered organizations may dictate more stringent practices and procedures/guidelines for personal safety. Units must operate minding any additional guidance implied by their chartered organization.
3. The Black Swamp Area Council continues to partner with our local health departments and review updated guidance from the State of Ohio, CDC, and National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.
4. **The Boy Scouts of America has no current plans to nationally require a COVID-19 vaccine in 2021 for in-person activities or camp. However, the Boy Scouts of America does recommend that all eligible individuals receive the COVID-19 vaccine, in consultation with their health care provider.**



Facial Coverings

Individuals who are fully vaccinated (i.e. those 2 weeks following receipt of either the second dose of a 2-dose series or one dose of a single dose series per the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons) can participate in meetings and activities without wearing a mask. Those not vaccinated must continue to wear masks indoors only when social distancing is not possible. A Scout is Trustworthy regarding their vaccination status. If you are meeting with an individual and they are wearing a mask, you should put on a mask to respect their position, unless they indicate it is not necessary. Given that a majority of the youth that we serve are ineligible to receive the vaccine and all of our counties are in high rate of spread, as per the Ohio Department of Health, we encourage all Scouting participants in our council, vaccinated and unvaccinated, to wear a mask when indoors and outdoors when social distancing cannot be achieved. When visiting our Council Service Center or a buildings at camp please wear a mask regardless of your vaccination status. Masks must be removed during sleeping and while engaged in eating or drinking only. Remember the Scout Law- a Scout is trustworthy, friendly, courteous, kind and clean- as we navigate the



Meetings & Unit Activities

There are no longer any restrictions on the size of groups at meetings or activities. Only maximum capacity requirements of local health, fire, and safety codes apply. Social distancing is still encouraged particularly in groups of mixed-vaccination status.

Camping

1. All Black Swamp Area Council facilities are fully open to reserve at www.BlackSwampBsa.org with traditional capacity limits.
2. One Scout per tent is recommended, unless Scouts are from the same household or Scouts are fully vaccinated. However, sharing of tents is allowable, if necessary, but the Scout will need to tent with the same Scout for the entire event (i.e. entire week of summer camp or weekend campout). Campers should sleep head to toe and maintain as much space and ventilation as possible. All youth protection protocols must be followed. Cabins can be used as well.



Transportation

Carpooling is allowed, but non vaccinated individuals will need to wear face coverings in the vehicle unless all passengers are from the same household. If carpooling is necessary, please follow the CDC guidelines (links below) for carpooling.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/organizations/carpooling-fs.pdf>



Dining & Food Prep

Consider having at least one adult that reviews ServSafe guidelines and ensures that any youth involved in food service are directly supervised by adults. For campsite cooking or cooking 'in the field', consider using disposal food service items if proper cleaning and sanitation can't be maintained. Visit www.servsafe.com for more information on food preparation amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic.



Health and Safety

1. FOR EASE IN CONTACT TRACING: Maintain attendance records and have a check-in policy for any scout, parent, leader, family member, visitor. Please record ALL individuals attending, with email addresses. If you are exposed at an event/scouting function please use the flow chart to determine your participation in scouting functions.
2. Have a prepared plan to address medical protocol should a Scout or Scouter become ill during a meeting or other activity this includes suddenly lose taste/smell.



Council Staff Support/Service Centers/District Operations

1. In-person meetings for council and district committees may take place, with a virtual (zoom, etc.) option where possible.
2. All individuals will need to wear a mask when shopping at the Scout Shop or visiting the service center. Regardless of vaccination status. If you are meeting with an individual and they are wearing a mask, you should put on a mask to respect their position, unless they indicate it is not necessary. (a Scout is Friendly, Courteous and Kind).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer frequently. Avoid touching your face. Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow). For more resources to reduce the risk of spread visit the CDC website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>



Per CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list of symptoms can change as more is learned about COVID-19, and CDC updates this list on its website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

In the event of a COVID 19 exposure:

1. Immediately isolate those exposed from other people and notify family/families. Exposed individual(s) should seek immediate medical care.

2. Report the exposure to the local county department of public health:

Allen County	https://www.allencountypublichealth.org/	(419) 228-4457
Auglaize County	https://www.auglaizehealth.org/	(419) 738-3410
Defiance County	https://defiancecohealth.org/	(419) 784-3818
Fulton County	http://fultoncountyhealthdept.com/	(419) 337-0915
Hancock County	www.hancockpublichealth.com	(419) 424-7105
Hardin County	https://hardinhealth.org/	(419) 673-6230
Henry County	http://henrycohd.org/	(419) 599-5545
Mercer County	https://mchdohio.org/	(419) 586-3251
Paulding County	https://www.pauldingcountyhealth.com/	(419) 399-3921
Putnam County	https://putnamhealth.com/	(419) 523-5608
Seneca County	https://www.senecahealthdept.org/	(419) 447-3691
Van Wert County	http://vanwertcountyhealth.org/	(419) 238-0808
Williams County	http://www.williamscountyhealth.org/	(419) 485-3141



3. Report the incident through the National Boy Scouts of America's incident reporting tool at: <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/covid-19-incidents-exposures-supplemental-instructions/>

4. Notify your District Executive. Contact names, phone numbers and emails can be found at: <https://www.blackswampbsa.org/about-us/council-staff/63352>



For information on developing a contact tracing plan or for more resources visit the National BSA COVID resource website at <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/covid-19-incidents-exposures-supplemental-instructions/>