COVID-19 Response Guidelines

• Updated effective March 1, 2021
• Available on website
• New guidelines on:
  • Health requirements
  • Self quarantine
  • COVID testing
  • COVID vaccine
  • Travel
Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital Step remains at Step II (projecting to move to Step III in summer)

In-person troop meetings, field trips and overnights/camping permitted.

1. Members of the troop and/or service unit must agree and adhere to COVID-19 Safety Requirements to gather in-person.
2. Maximum of 50 people may be at an in-person indoor gathering.
3. Maximum 75 people may be at an in-person outdoor gathering.
4. Girl members should be in activity groups of no more than 15 total people (13 girls, 2 adults).
5. If dividing girls into smaller groups, recommend groups of two to three girls.

REMOVED Requirement for girls to be from the same geographic area at larger events.

If local or state government guidelines are more restricted, follow the government’s guidelines.
At this time, the Council remains cautiously optimistic that gathering in larger groups and travel will be possible this spring and summer.

Remember: Guidance may be updated in response to any significant changes in our communities related to COVID-19; therefore, these guidelines are subject to future changes. We recommend volunteers closely evaluate cancellation policies for any vendors the troop or service unit will be using.
Spring
We recommend planning spring in-person events with capacity for up to **75 people outdoors and 25 indoors**. This is based on a hope that local governments will continue to remove restrictions for gathering.

Summer
The Council is **hoping** to transition to Step III and gatherings of **more than 100** by this summer. We continue to actively plan to **open** in-person sleep-away and day **camp** programs.
Spring and Summer Travel

International
Service Unit Managers **may not approve** international travel for the spring/summer of 2021.

Note: GSUSA has postponed all international destinations until summer 2022.

Cruises
Service Unit Managers **may not approve** travel on cruises for the spring/summer of 2021.

Domestic Travel
Service Unit Managers **may approve** travel in the United States for the spring/summer of 2021. Rates of infection, quarantining before and after trip, and requirements for COVID-19 testing and vaccines vary by state and venues. Troops are expected to research and plan to meet all safety requirements.
### COVID PREVENTIONS

**Non-pharmaceutical Interventions**

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All participants at in-person Girl Scout gatherings should meet these criteria:

1. **Have none of the following symptoms of COVID-19:** fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, feeling feverish as well as acute gastrointestinal problems, such as nausea, diarrhea, and vomiting.

2. Have not had a fever over 100 degrees, without the use of fever reducing medications, within the last 24 hours.

3. **Participant or family member are not awaiting results of a COVID-19 test.**

4. Have not had a known exposure to COVID-19 or been in close contact with anyone that has tested positive within the last 10 days.

5. Have not traveled away from home or outside of **Delaware**, District of Columbia, Maryland, **Pennsylvania**, Virginia, or West Virginia boarders within the last 10 days.
For individuals with symptoms who are awaiting test results or have tested positive and are directed to care for themselves at home, you may return to Girl Scout in-person gatherings under the following conditions:

- **At least 10 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared; **AND**
- **24 hours** have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; **AND**
- Other symptoms are improving (loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and should not delay the end of isolation).
If you **test negative** for COVID-19 **after exposure**, you may return to Girl Scout in-person gatherings **on day 7** after receiving a negative test result (**test must occur on day 5 after exposure**).

• If you **test positive** for COVID-19 but **never had any symptoms**, you may join Girl Scout in-person gatherings **after 10 days** have passed since the first positive diagnostic test.

**Added guidance on COVID Vaccine**
Volunteers and girls are **not required** to have the COVID-19 vaccine in order to attend in-person Girl Scout gatherings.
Wear Face Covering
Members are required to provide and wear a facemask at all Girl Scout in-person gatherings. It should be **two or more** layers of breathable fabric; it must cover the nose and mouth and fit the face snuggly with no gaps. **Gaiters may be used if they have two layers.** Click here for the CDC guidelines on wearing masks.
ISARS-CoV-2 viral particles spread between people more readily indoors than outdoors. When indoors, ventilation mitigation strategies help to offset the absence of natural wind and reduce the concentration of viral particles in the indoor air.

CDC offers the following indoor ventilation improvements to consider:

- Increase fresh outdoor air by opening windows and doors, when conditions permit.
- Use fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. Avoid placing fans in a way that could potentially cause contaminated air to flow directly from one person to another.
- In homes and buildings where the HVAC fan operation can be controlled at the thermostat, set the fan to the “on” position instead of “auto,” which will operate the fan continuously, even when heating or air-conditioning is not required.
COVID-19 Resources

- COVID-19 Response Guidelines for Administrative Volunteers
- COVID-19 Response Guidelines for Troop Leaders
- COVID-19 Response Guidelines Service Unit Presentation for Troop Leaders
- COVID-19 Guide to Girl Scout Gatherings (for parents)
- Girl Scouts Nation's Capital Gathering COVID-19 Health Pre-Screen Form
- COVID-19 Response Guidelines FAQ Sheet