



**NORTHEAST IOWA COUNCIL'S
UNIT RESTART
GUIDELINES**



These set of guidelines have been established to help your Unit Leadership facilitate the conversations needed when planning your next activities during the Coronavirus pandemic. These **do not** replace or supersede State or local Guidelines or the Guide to Safe Scouting. It is important to use the following checklist for all Scouting meetings and events:

Ask- Is it legal?

Ask- Is it safe?

Make a plan.

Communicate with families.

Have a fun and safe meeting.

Review and adjust.

STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES

When planning to engage in any sort of activity it is important to ensure that you are following all State and local guidelines. In the event these guidelines conflict, the stricter regulation is the one that needs to be followed.

As part of the local guidelines that units need to consider, units should contact their Charter Organization to learn what requirements they have in place. Even if a unit is not planning to meet at their Charter Organization, they must follow their guidelines as well.

PROGRAM SAFETY

Every activity should be evaluated for safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not all activities that have been safe in Scouting will be safe during the pandemic. It is also important to remember that safe does not mean risk free. Factors to consider when picking an activity include the ability for all participants to stay six feet apart, a lack of necessity to share equipment, and ease of sanitizing equipment that must be shared between each use.





TRANSPORTATION

For Unit meetings and outings, the best practice is to encourage only members of the same household to ride together. Any other arrangements are at the discretion of individual parents. If sharing a vehicle, masks should be worn at all times and passengers should sit as far apart as possible. Surfaces should be sanitized both before and after the trip.

TENTING

Camping is a major part of Scouting, but socially distancing in tents presents some obvious challenges. The best practice is to tent individually or with a member of your household.

FACE COVERINGS

All people should wear a mask when social distancing is difficult (or if mandated by state guidelines), either indoors or outdoors. While wearing a mask, make sure there are no gaps between your face and the mask, avoid touching the mask and do not re-use single-use masks.

WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash or sanitize your hands frequently and especially after using the restroom, after you touch your face covering, before you eat or prepare food and after you handle shared equipment.

PRE-EVENT MEDICAL SCREENING CHECKLIST

This is a BSA tool located at www.scouting.org to assist leaders in identifying potentially communicable diseases in advance of event participation and should be used ahead of every Scouting meeting or event.



CAN MY UNIT HOLD OUR MEETING OR EVENT?

Are we following all State and Local Guidelines (Charter Organization Approval)?



Are we following all Guide to Safe Scouting and Youth Protection Guidelines?



Have you factored group size (total youth and adults) into your plans?



Do not hold the activity at this time.

Consider virtual possibilities.



How will you ensure participant safety?

Social Distancing

Location

Face Masks

Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist

Enhanced Hygiene

Transportation

Camping

Food



Hold the activity if your participants feel comfortable and safe. Consider offering virtual opportunities for those who cannot attend, if possible.

Other things to consider

What extra precautions need to be taken?

Can this meeting/activity be offered in a hybrid method?





COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR FAMILIES

Once you have decided how your unit is going to meet, it is essential to communicate clearly with families in your unit. In this ever-changing environment, it is important to ensure families know of the the details of your plan to help them feel comfortable with the safety of the program.

MEETING IMPLEMENTATION

Follow unit plans and reinforce guidelines.

Monitor for COVID before, during and after the meeting.

REVIEW AND ADJUST

After your unit has had an activity and put its' COVID plan to the test, it is important to review and adjust the plan as necessary to keep everyone safe. State and local guidelines will continue to change as well, please pay attention for updates.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE HAS SYMPTOMS

If a Scout, Leader or participant exhibits symptoms after leaving a Scout meeting or event and the individual receives a positive COVID-19 test:

- 1) Follow care instructions from physician.
- 2) Notify Northeast Iowa Council at 563-556-4343 to complete an incident report
- 3) Use the approved communication below to notify any close contacts. Close contact is defined by the CDC as being within 6ft of an individual for 15 minutes or more.

COMMUNICATION FOR CLOSE CONTACTS

We are informing you that a participant or staff who was at [name of meeting or event] has tested positive for COVID-19. Close contact is defined by the CDC as being within 6ft of an individual for 15 minutes or more. You should isolate yourself and contact your primary care provider now to share this message and seek their advice for monitoring your health. Our protocols for social distancing, face coverings and increased sanitation are essential to continuing to keep our Scouting population healthy as we encourage you to continue them outside of Scouting as well.

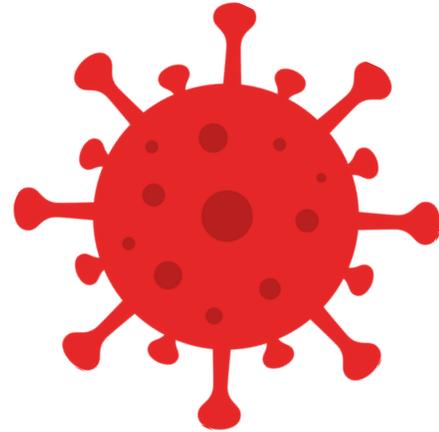


COVID-19

COVID-19 affects different people in different ways. Infected people have had a wide range of symptoms reported – from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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
- Diarrhea



Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.

HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS

People in high risk categories, including those otherwise healthy individuals who are age 60+, should not participate with in-person Scouting activities but are encouraged to participate online. Anyone who may be considered high risk should consult with their physician for further guidance.

People of any age with the following conditions are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19: Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease, Chronic Respiratory Disease, COPD, Immunocompromised State, Obesity, Serious Heart Conditions, Sickle Cell Disease, Type 2 Diabetes.