



## Coronavirus Safety in Girl Scouts

The health and safety of girls are always the highest priority in Girl Scouts. Returning to in-person activities, especially after a long time of shelter in place for most communities, is a long-awaited development that everyone in Girl Scouts will need to continue to manage carefully. Recognize that COVID-19 health and safety guidance will continue to adjust as the coronavirus transmission risk changes over time.

Girl Scouts has provided COVID-19 guidance specific to the topics that touch our lives in Girl Scouts such as troop meetings, activities, and day trips. Your council's COVID-19 guidance is the first place to go for health and safety practices in Girl Scouting. [You can access the current COVID-19 Guidance for Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Council here.](#)

Remember, always make sure that your planned activity is also in compliance with the federal and state governmental health authorities where the activity will take place. This means the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health as well as local or county health directives. For example, if your county or region has a governmental directive that requires no large in-person gatherings, then that rule must be complied with. Girl Scouts are always obligated to comply with our governmental health authorities.

On the other hand, for a variety of reasons, there may be situations where your council's guidance is more strict than state or local guidance. If that is the case, either choose the rules that are most strict or contact your council for clarification.

Recognize that state and local rules concerning coronavirus safety can *vary* from place to place. Safety regulations will also *change* as the transmission risk changes. Be sure to stay current on what is required in your region but also consider that girls in your troop may reside in a different area with a different set of safety parameters to abide by. A good way to ensure you are following the proper governmental guidance is to follow the practices as established in local public schools.

Some basic safety standards that have been issued by the [Center of Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) for integrating back into in person gatherings are:

- Wear a mask (and make sure that girls wear a mask).
- Practice good hygiene by washing or disinfecting hands frequently.
- Remind girls and adults about social distancing when in public and with each other.

- Focus on scheduling activities outdoors instead of indoors whenever possible.
- Pre-screen for no symptoms, fever or sustained contact with a COVID-19 positive person
- Request that a girl or adult who is exhibiting symptoms of being sick not participate and return when she is no longer sick.
- Remember: If a girl or adult knows that they have been in close and sustained contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus, make sure that they comply with the appropriate quarantine period pursuant to the CDC before attending Girl Scout meetings or activities.

The CDC provides regular updates on their website which can be accessed here:

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)

Some excellent guidance for mask wearing and the effectiveness of double masking can be accessed here:

[Use Masks to Help Slow Spread | CDC](#)

[Improve How Your Mask Protects You | CDC](#)

[Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Council COVID-19 Guidelines](#)