

## COVID-19 Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions

### REGION 1 RESURGENCE MITIGATIONS ANNOUNCED 9/30/2020

#### ***What do the resurgence mitigations mean for Girl Scouts?***

The mitigation that directly affects Girl Scouts pertains to Group Size. The new group size guidelines for meetings/activities are set at the “lesser of 25 participants or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors.” This group size must be followed in the Region 1 counties starting Saturday, October 3, 2020, until the mitigations are lifted. Region 1 includes the following counties: Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago. (And as with groups of 50, a group of 25 could be together for opening and closing but are divided into smaller groups of 15 or fewer for activities.)

This does affect the capacity for meetings at our Freeport and Rockford Resource Centers. The capacities in these locations will now be 4 in Freeport and 13 in Rockford. Please remember that these capacities include both girls and adults.

The mitigations do state there is no change for organized group recreational activities (fitness centers, sports, etc.). We do believe that our camp locations would fall under that category and as such Camp McCormick and Far Horizons would have no change in capacities.

### ADULT COVERAGE AT MEETINGS--UPDATE

Initially, we stated that if you were dividing your troop into two groups, each group meeting in a different room of the meeting location, then each group needed two approved volunteers (background checked and an adult member). We have updated this to be with each group you will need one approved volunteer and the second volunteer may be a parent helper.

### FACE COVERINGS (MASKS)

#### ***What if a girl/adult refuses to wear a mask?***

A face covering (mask) is required for in-person participation. Anyone refusing to wear a mask, would not be able to participate in-person at this time. Masks must be worn over both the nose and mouth. Leaders could provide accommodations by providing the girl with the supplies for the activity, but it would not be required.

#### ***Are there types of face coverings (masks) that are not allowed?***

Per the Illinois Department of Public Health and CDC guidelines, gaiters and masks with exhalation valves or vents are not acceptable forms of face coverings. Face shields on

their own are not acceptable. Face shields could be worn in conjunction with face coverings (masks).

**Can bandanas be used as face coverings (masks)?**

Yes.

**Is a face covering (mask) required at all times?**

Face coverings must always be worn during indoor meetings/activities.

It is highly recommended that face coverings also be worn during all outdoor meetings/activities and are required if the six-foot distancing cannot be ensured throughout the activity. (This does not mean the six-foot distancing is not required at all times. We just know it is not always easy to maintain and that there are some occasions where social distancing cannot be met—see Social Distancing FAQ.)

**SCREENING FORM**

**NOTE: GSNI has also put together a COVID-19 Screening Form Assistance document that you may find helpful. The form is attached at the end of this FAQ document.**

***Does answering yes to a medical question on the Screening Form automatically mean a girl/adult cannot participate in the activity?***

No. As stated on the form, you must be sensitive to the fact that girls may be experiencing symptoms that are similar to but completely unrelated to COVID. The intention of the screening form is to protect but not to exclude or embarrass anyone. Though we do need to be careful, if a girl/parent knows the symptom is not related or there is no reason to believe they are a carrier, then do NOT exclude them. Do implement decisions consistently for all members of the troop.

***What temperature excludes participation?***

Initially, Q1 listed the temperature as 98.6. The documents have all been updated to show that participants should not participate if they have a temperature of 100.4 or higher.

***Does answering yes to Q 13 (travel outside of IL.) mean a girl/adult may not participate in the meeting/event?***

Not necessarily. If the state of Illinois requires travelers from a certain area to quarantine for 14 days, then they should not attend. As of Sept. 10—there were no such requirements. Of course, this could change at any time. You can visit the Illinois' Public Health Departments website for such guidelines (<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/travel>).

The IPHD website does have a map of states considered at higher risk for travel. Should you choose, you could use that to restrict attendance at meetings; however, GSNI's guidelines are only requiring it if the state implements travel restrictions\*. If you should implement stricter guidelines, parents must be notified of this ahead of time.

\*NOTE: Some counties/cities may have travel restrictions. If you are within one of those counties/cities or traveling to one of those counties/cities, they you would need to follow the travel restrictions. Check your counties health department website for restrictions.

The City of Chicago does have travel restrictions, and if your event were happening in Chicago, you would need to restrict participation as outlined by Chicago's travel restrictions. There is a link at bottom of the Travel Advisory that will take to you the Chicago restrictions.

***What part of these screening requirements are the parents' responsibility? It seems like all of these new rules, forms, and requirements are the leaders' responsibility and we already feel stretched thin. Our troop parents did not volunteer prior to COVID-19.***

In the *COVID-19 Guidelines Overview for Parents*, we have included a list of commitments that we expect of parents. Many of these are related to the screening document. We also ask parents to step up and help!

***Can these screening and tracking forms be turned into electronic documents?***

That is currently being worked on and should be available in the VTK soon.

***My troop is older girls and some drive themselves to meetings. How can we complete the screening?***

In this case, you could conduct a verbal screening with the parent by phone or the parent could email the completed screening form to you—the electronic form mention in the previous question may help with this. If emailed, the information must come from the parent's email. In either case, the screening needs to take place close to the meeting time—no earlier than one hour before the start of the meeting.

If by email, the email should be saved for:

- one month, if there were no COVID issues related to the meeting
- OR
- for the membership year if there were COVID issues related to the meeting.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

### ***Is social distancing of 6-feet between individuals required both indoors and outdoors?***

YES! Social distancing should always be maintained. There are rare cases when this is not possible, for example when a leader is assisting a girl. Or if food is being served, a server would most likely need to be closer to participants than 6-feet. Of course, during those instances, a mask must be worn. These rare cases should be *short-term interactions*.

### ***Are the girls allowed to work in pairs or small teams, closer than 6 feet apart, if they are wearing their masks?***

No, social distancing of 6 feet is required all activities.

## WAIVERS

### ***What if a parent refuses to sign a waiver?***

The waiver is required for in-person participation. If a parent refuses to sign, the daughter would not be able to participate in-person at this time. Leaders could provide accommodations by providing the girl with the supplies for the activity, but it would not be required.

## ZOOM

### ***Will a discounted Zoom license be available?***

Yes! GSUSA is offering discounted Zoom licenses for registered Girl Scout volunteers. To purchase, go to the Activities page on GSNI's website. The cost is \$36 for a year. The license allows for groups of up to 500 and has no time limit on the length of meetings. Orders placed by the first of a month, will receive their Zoom invite by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.

### ***I already have a license. Can I get a refund and take advantage of this discount?***

Yes. As long as the email you register is the same email used on the current license, when you receive your Zoom invite, you will be given an option to connect the accounts and you will receive a refund from Zoom. (GSNI does not provide the refund.)

## MISCELANIOUS

***If we have girls/families that do not want to meet in person, how much virtual support are we required/encouraged to offer? We were planning to email lists/instructions of each activity that was missed, and the girl can choose to do at home, if desired. Is that enough?***

That sounds wonderful. There is no set expectation. Each leadership team can determine what they are able to do. Some may choose to simply provide an email with lists and instructions. Others may choose to provide a program kit with all the supplies. Some may even decide to do a combined in-person and virtual troop meeting so girls can participate in the activity at the same times as the troop.

***Is it the troop's responsibility to purchase Zoom memberships (or other platform), thermometer(s), extra masks, sanitizing supplies?***

- If doing virtual troop meetings, a virtual platform will be needed—some are available free of charge and others are not. For example, the troop could use **Zoom**'s free platform; however, that platform limits the length of a meeting to 40 minutes. A \$36 Zoom license is available. You can register for that in the activity section of our website (<https://www.girlscoutsni.org/en/activities/activities-list.html>). Simply look for 2021 MY Volunteer Zoom. The license is good for one year. Meetings can have up to 500 participants and there is no meeting time limit.
- **Thermometers** are not required. In the parent guidelines, that responsibility is placed on them. If the leadership team prefers to check temperatures as participants arrive, you may.
- **Extra masks**, it would probably be good to have a few on hand; however, the girls should be bringing their own mask, so it is not required.
- I would say the one thing that troops will need is the **sanitizing supplies** unless the location you are meeting at provides them.

***Does each girl need her own supplies for activities?***

I am assuming here that we are talking about supplies that are normally shared, such as scissors, markers, etc. While it is not required for each girl to have their own supplies, it would be the preferred method. If not, then supplies must be disinfected between each girl using them.

***Do we need a Certificate of Insurance (COI) if our meetings are being held in public spaces such as parks or in churches?***

A COI is most often required for high risk activities. GSNI does not require a COI for troop meetings, except for meetings being held in/at private homes.

If the public space has a high-risk activity you will be participating in during your meeting, a COI would be required. For example, your meetings are held at park that has

a climbing wall. You do not need a COI on file with the council for troop meetings; however, you would need one if your troop were to use the climbing wall.

***Where can I find online First Aid Courses?***

Looking for online First Aid Classes, the Red Cross does have a variety of them available. Go to <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>. From there, select online only and choose the appropriate training. GSNI guidelines recommend first-aid and CPR training that includes specific instructions for child CPR. Other approved first aid providers include: National Safety Council, EMP America, and American Heart Association.

## SCREENING FORM ASSISTANCE

We have had numerous questions regarding the Screening Form and how to deal with “yes” answers. A “yes” answer may not limit participation if parents confirm the symptoms are not related to COVID-19.

The following information is based on information found in the Illinois Department of Public Health’s FAQ for Schools.

Questions 1 through 9 deal specifically with COVID like symptoms. The following may help you determine if the child should participate in the Girl Scouts.

1. If the participant has a fever above 100.4, they should NOT attend in-person meetings.
2. If the participant has taken fever reducers in the past 72 hours and they were diagnosed with non-COVID illness:
  - a. They must meet the criteria for returning to activities for the illness with which they were diagnosed.
  - b. At a minimum, an individual with a non-COVID related temperature must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and have no diarrhea or vomiting in the previous 24 hours.
3. If the symptom(s) cannot be confirmed by the parent as not related to COVID-19, then the participant should not attend in-person activities.

Question 10 deals with COVID-19 testing.

1. If a participant has COVID-like symptoms, and a COVID-test has been conducted, the participant should have a health care provider’s note documenting the alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test result.
2. If a participant is waiting for COVID-19 test results, they should not attend in-person activities.

Questions 12 & 13 deal with travel.

Answering yes to travel outside of Illinois does not necessarily mean the participant cannot attend a meeting. Restriction is required only if the State of Illinois requires travelers to/from the state to quarantine for 14 days. As of Sept. 10, 2020, the State of Illinois did not require any travel restrictions. This could change, you can visit the Illinois Department of Public Health’s website (<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/travel>) for travel guidelines.

On the public health’s website, you will find a map of states considered at higher risk for travel. Should leaders choose, they could use those guidelines to restrict attendance at meetings but GSNI’s guidelines are only requiring it if the state implements travel restrictions. If setting a guideline that is stricter than GSNI’s, troops must notify parents and implement consistently.

The City of Chicago does have travel restrictions, and if your event were happening in Chicago, you would need to restrict participation as outlined by Chicago's travel restrictions. There is a link at the bottom of the Travel Advisory that will take you to the Chicago restrictions.

Also, should your community/county have stricter guidelines, you would need to follow those. For example, Winnebago County does have a travel advisory that indicates individuals traveling to/from a list of 14 states should self-quarantine for 14 days upon return to the region and/or after the date the visitors have left. You would find the list on Winnebago County Health Department's website. Check your county's website for similar travel advisories.

Other helpful guidelines:

- If one of the household members is being evaluated for COVID-19, the rest of the household must be quarantined until an alternative diagnosis is made or negative result received. If the case is confirmed or considered a probable case, the household members will be in quarantine for 14 calendar days.
- If a person has been quarantined after a "close contact" issue, is a healthcare provider's note required to return to in-person activities? Persons who remain asymptomatic throughout 14 calendar days of quarantine do not need a healthcare provider's note.