

## GSNI's Condensed COVID-19 Guidelines

*Updated as of October 28, 2022*

We have all been living with COVID-19 for quite some time now, and it is evident we are all adjusting and learning to live with it. Of course, we understand this may look differently for each individual Girl Scout family within GSNI. GSNI hasn't required masks be worn at any of our properties for several months and that has not changed.

We are giving our members the choice whether to wear a mask, based on their own individual needs and situation. We realize you are better equipped to make the best decision for your families.

GSNI is not the experts so, in principle, we are aligned with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines. When in doubt or if you are looking for more details, please see the CDC and IDPH links provided below:

[How to Protect Yourself & Others | CDC](#)  
[COVID-19 Home \(illinois.gov\)](#)

Because GSNI covers 16 counties, you should be familiar with your community restrictions and follow your local school district guidance when applicable. For example: if considering busing needs for day camps or other day trips, you should follow your local school district policy for the number of people per seat.

### **Meetings/Events**

Troop meetings/gatherings can occur in-person or virtually. We are trusting troops and families to make the best decision for their Girl Scouts on when and how they'll meet. The expectation is that you'll follow the current guidelines being imposed at your meeting place location/facility. Girl Scouts should be good guests and follow the policy of the location where your troop is meeting or conducting program. Therefore, if your service unit or troop is meeting in a location that still requires mask, you should respect and follow their guidance.

Likewise, if hosting events, you should follow the guidelines of the location/facility being utilized. Volunteers are also given the authority to set up their own requirements that fall within the safety guidelines for large group settings as outlined in the IDPH recommendations.

For overnight events at our camps, reference IDPH guidelines [here](#). Additional information on summer camps can also be found here: [Happy Campers | CDC](#)

### **Masking**

**Indoors** – Masks are optional indoors at all GSNI Resource Centers and council properties for all patrons. Unvaccinated persons or those at high risk are encouraged to wear masks while participating during indoor activities. As a reminder, if meeting at other facilities, i.e., churches, schools, etc., you need to follow their guidelines, especially if stricter guidance is in place.

**Outdoors** – Masks are not required, even if social distancing cannot be maintained. If members are more comfortable and choose to wear a mask, that is well within their right.

**Note:** With masks being optional, please treat each other with kindness, because we are all unique and have differing circumstances. Please respect those who choose to wear a mask.

## **Travel and Overnight Stays**

### **International Trips**

Planning for international trips for 2022 and beyond is allowed. Submit an [Intent to Plan International Travel Form](#). When planning, be sure to look at current COVID guidelines from the CDC and for the country/countries in which you plan to travel. (Countries may require vaccination, self-quarantine, and testing.) Be sure to research cancellation policies, as the trip may need to be canceled. Be aware of U.S. guidelines to return to the U.S.

### **Troop Travel—National Trips**

Troops must submit the [Troop Trip Overnight Approval Form](#) to [customercare@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsni.org).

## **Testing Positive for COVID-19**

If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and isolate for five days (per the most current CDC guidelines released in December 2021) as opposed to 10 days. Then, continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days.

- **Isolation** means staying home when you are sick, or you tested positive.
- **Quarantine** is a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others.
- **Close contact** is defined as someone who was less than six feet away from an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For example, three individual five-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes.

For more information about when to quarantine and who may not have to quarantine, check out the following link:

[12.30.21\\_Isolation-Quarantine-guidance.pdf \(illinois.gov\)](#)

### **Reporting COVID-19**

Universal contact tracing and individual COVID-19 case investigations were implemented as a tool to slow transmissions. However, the wide availability of COVID-19 vaccines, at-home testing kits, and updated isolation and quarantine guidance has prompted a revised public health approach not unique to Illinois. Many states and localities have already scaled back or stopped universal case investigations and contact tracing in alignment with [CDC contact tracing recommendations](#).

### **Pre-Screening**

Pre-screening is no longer required as of October 28, 2022. GSNI will no longer require completion of a COVID Screening Form prior to arriving at Girl Scout meetings or events. However, members should continue to self-assess and use their best judgment, i.e., if you're sick or exhibit symptoms, don't attend a meeting or event. If we all follow simple common-sense protocols, we can create a safer experience for everyone.

### **Additional Forms**

Our Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement is no longer required as of October 28, 2022. Council or service unit events that have individual registration, rather than troop participation, will no longer be required to have a signed COVID Waiver of Liability and Hold Harmless Agreement for each participant. At the council level, GSNI will no longer require the completed form annually. The COVID-19 Family Agreement for Activities is also no longer required as of October 28, 2022.