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## **Scouts NSW Update: Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

On 11 March, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that the outbreak of coronavirus (known as COVID-19) is a pandemic and subsequently the Prime Minister advised against holding gatherings of more than 500 people from 16 March. Scouts NSW has prepared guidelines on how to manage Scout-specific activities, and is closely monitoring the evolving situation and following the advice provided by the NSW Government Department of Health.

The health and safety of our members is always our top priority.

Scouts NSW has assembled a small task force of representatives with deep experience of managing health issues. They are overseeing our response to COVID-19.

We have established a [page](#) on the Scouts NSW website, which provides information about COVID-19 and guidance for adult leaders.

For those of you who manage weekly Scouting meetings during Term time, you will find guidance on the [website](#). You will also find a Scout-specific poster and fold out card available for download, use and distribution to members.

For those of you who are arranging a large event or weekend activity, where participants will be in close proximity for many hours, please refer to the advice from the Prime Minister's Office or contact the Scouts NSW task force team at [feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au) and they will help you decide whether to proceed.

For those of you planning to attend a large event or weekend activity, the event organisers will be in contact with you in advance to confirm if it is proceeding.

It is important to note that this situation is continually evolving. You are encouraged to continue to visit the [Health and Safety page](#) on the Scouts NSW website, which will be regularly updated as new information comes to hand.

Should you have any additional questions about this matter that have not been addressed by the information on the website, please direct all enquiries via email to [feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:feedback@nsw.scouts.com.au).

Thank you for staying calm, considered and rational.

As community leaders, you play an important role in being mindful of your actions to limit the effect on your own health, as well as the impact it has on those around you.

### **Child Safety in Scouting**

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a child safe organisation and implementing child safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

#### **Remember**

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office.

To make a report use the [online child protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email [childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au).

#### **Imminent Danger**

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444.

Where a report is made to the police, you should also subsequently notify the NSW State Office.

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