

Guidance for Gang Shows during COVID-19

Please remember: The situation relating to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and can change quickly. Monitor the rules and be ready to alter or cancel your plans if needed.

Each Gang Show is required to submit an on-line Scouts NSW [COVID Safety Plan GANG SHOW for Rehearsals & Performances](#). This guide has been prepared to acquaint you with the expectations before you submit your on-line plan.

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Before each rehearsal or performance be ready to reverse or amend your plans.

Gang Show rehearsals and performances present a risk of spread due the proximity when dancing or doing skits, singing, shouting and playing certain musical instruments. There are a lot of adults and youth involved and they all will spend a fair amount of time together. The health risks are greater for adult members.

1. Regularly check the Scouts NSW COVID page for the latest information, restrictions etc. Use the **Latest News and Updates** button on the Scouting [Guide to COVID-19 web page](#).
2. Listen to news broadcasts and be familiar with NSW Government notices for last minute changes before proceeding with your activity. Use the **NSW Health what you can and can't do** button on the [Scouting Guide to COVID-19 web page](#).
3. Monitor the hot spots. Use the **NSW Health Case Locations in NSW** button on the [Scouting Guide to COVID-19 web](#) page to monitor suburbs impacted venues. Gang Shows in locations with increased testing should follow the advice provided by NSW Health. For example, individuals should get tested even if they have mild symptoms.

COVID-19 Safety Plans for Gang Shows

Under NSW Health's rules for Outdoor gatherings for rehearsal and performances, Gang Shows must have a written COVID-19 Safety plan addressing the following sections;

- wellbeing of performers and audience
- physical distancing
- hygiene and cleaning
- record keeping

The outline of the on-line [COVID Safety Plan GANG SHOW for Rehearsals & Performances](#) is shown below.

Considering these items and building them into your planning up front will hopefully reduce the risk of Gang Show members becoming sick or having to isolate, as well limiting the reputational and financial risks.

Outline of the Gang Show COVID-19 Safety Plan

Once you have acquainted yourself with these requirements please check that you have everything in order and submit your [here](#)

<p>Exclude Gang Show Members and audience members who are unwell. Scouts NSW suggests that Gang Show organisers have a clear policy for members around not attending if they are unwell. Advise participants that even if they have a 'little sniffle' on the day, they should not attend (with some exception allowed for those with a proven history of hay fever).</p>
<p>Provide Gang Show Members with information and training on COVID-19, including when to get tested, physical distancing, wearing masks, cleaning, and how to manage a sick visitor. Select from the range of Scouts NSW posters here.</p>
<p>Display conditions of entry (website, social media, venue entry). Select from the range of Scouts NSW posters here.</p>
<p>Ensure the number of people does not exceed one person per 2 square metres (excluding staff) to a maximum of 500 people. Outside of Greater Sydney, there is a maximum of 3,000 people. In Greater Sydney, indoor areas must not exceed one person per 4 square metres of publicly accessible space. Scouts NSW recommends working in smaller teams of ten (10) or so whenever feasible and limit the need for circulation especially for adults, who are at higher risk i.e divide the larger group up to work in static smaller base groups and limit the contact between these groups. Provide seating and encourage Gang Show members to remain seated when not rehearsing.</p>
<p>In indoor areas, audience members should not participate in singing or chanting. In outdoor areas, audience members older than 12 years should wear masks if singing or chanting. Scouts NSW reminds organisers that even when outdoors the risks of skits, singing, dancing and musical instruments have to be managed on a daily basis eg singing pointing away from one another, distanced and mindful of wind direction.</p>
<p>No more than 5 performers should sing indoors. Scouts NSW: Gang Show rehearsals should be held outside. In case of rain, be ready to cancel and let participants know of this policy up front to help alleviate confusion.</p>
<p>All performing singers should face forwards and not towards each other, have physical distancing of 1.5m between each other and any other performers, and be 5m from all other people including the audience and conductor, where practical. Scouts NSW recommends that although masks may not be required, consider using them for some Gang Show activities anyway. Due to the amount of signing, shouting etc there is an elevated chance of spread. If there is a positive case, individuals who have worn a mask may be defined by NSW Health as a casual contact rather than a close contact. That can mean the difference between having to isolate and not having to isolate (for adult members of Gang Show especially, that could mean the difference between being able to go to work and not being able to go to work).</p> <p>Ensure 1.5m physical distancing where possible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ at points of mixing or queuing such as bars, toilets and entrance and exit points○ between seated groups○ between performers and leaders
<p>Attendees must be assigned to a specific seat or to a designated seating area. Ensure audience members remain seated throughout the rehearsal or performance, where practical. There should be no dancefloors.</p>

Reduce crowding wherever possible and promote physical distancing with markers where people are asked to queue or stand. *Any service of food at Gang Shows should follow the Food Handling guidelines provided in the Scouting Guide to Overnight Activities.*

Adopt good hand hygiene practices. Ensure hand sanitiser is accessible at the venue entry and throughout the grounds. *Select from the range of Scouts NSW posters [here](#).*

Ensure bathrooms are well stocked with hand soap and paper towels or hand dryers. Consider providing visual aids above hand wash basins to support effective hand washing. *Select from the range of Scouts NSW posters [here](#).*

Ensure performers clean their instruments between each performance (as appropriate to the instrument).

Reduce sharing of equipment where practical and ensure these are cleaned with detergent and disinfectant between use (as appropriate to the instrument). Staff and performers should wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before and after cleaning, including of instruments.

In indoor areas, increase natural ventilation by opening windows and doors where possible, and increase mechanical ventilation where possible by optimising air conditioning or other system settings (such as by maximising the intake of outside air and reducing or avoiding recirculation of air).

Keep a record of name, contact number and entry time for all staff, volunteers, performers, audience members and contractors attending. *Scouts NSW Gang Shows should use the venue's QR code to register attendance. If the venue is managed by Gang Show (eg a dedicated Gang Show Hall), then the Gang Show organisers will need to register the premises with NSW Health in order to obtain a free QR code.*

Cooperate with NSW Health if contacted in relation to a positive case of COVID-19 and notify SafeWork NSW on 13 10 50.

Keep a copy of this COVID-19 Safety Plan at the premises

Encourage contactless payment options.

The actual Gang Show performances

NOTE NSW Health suggests organisations in general should NOT factor in any relief from the vaccine for planning future events ie. at this stage, don't assume the vaccine will improve

In regard to the actual performance:

- What venue(s) is planned for the actual performances?
- How many people can the planned venue accommodate now under the current sqm rule?
- If restrictions tighten and the planned venue is no longer feasible, is there a PLAN B?