



# SCOUTING GUIDE TO COVID-19



## A GUIDE FOR SCOUTS NSW LEADERS

Scouts NSW abides by and always endorses the current NSW Health Public Health Orders. All Scouts NSW guidelines should be read in association with the NSW Health Guidelines and Laws. In the event of a discrepancy or conflict in directions, the NSW Government and NSW Health guidelines takes precedence.

Please ensure you check the latest NSW Health Guidelines and Laws applicable to your area before any Scouting meeting. You can find specific rules and restrictions by visiting <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules>.

For a more in-depth review of the Public Health Orders and the complete legislation applicable at the time, please visit <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/information/covid19-legislation>

## IMPORTANT LINKS

NSW Public Health Orders:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/information/covid19-legislation/general>

Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy:

<https://scouts.com.au/members/key-resources/>

Scouts NSW – Scouting Guide to COVID-19

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/members-services/health-and-safety/scouting-guide-to-coronavirus/>

### QUESTION NOT ANSWERED?

If your question is not answered in this document and the NSW Government Public Health Orders do not make sense, you can request further assistance or information by emailing:

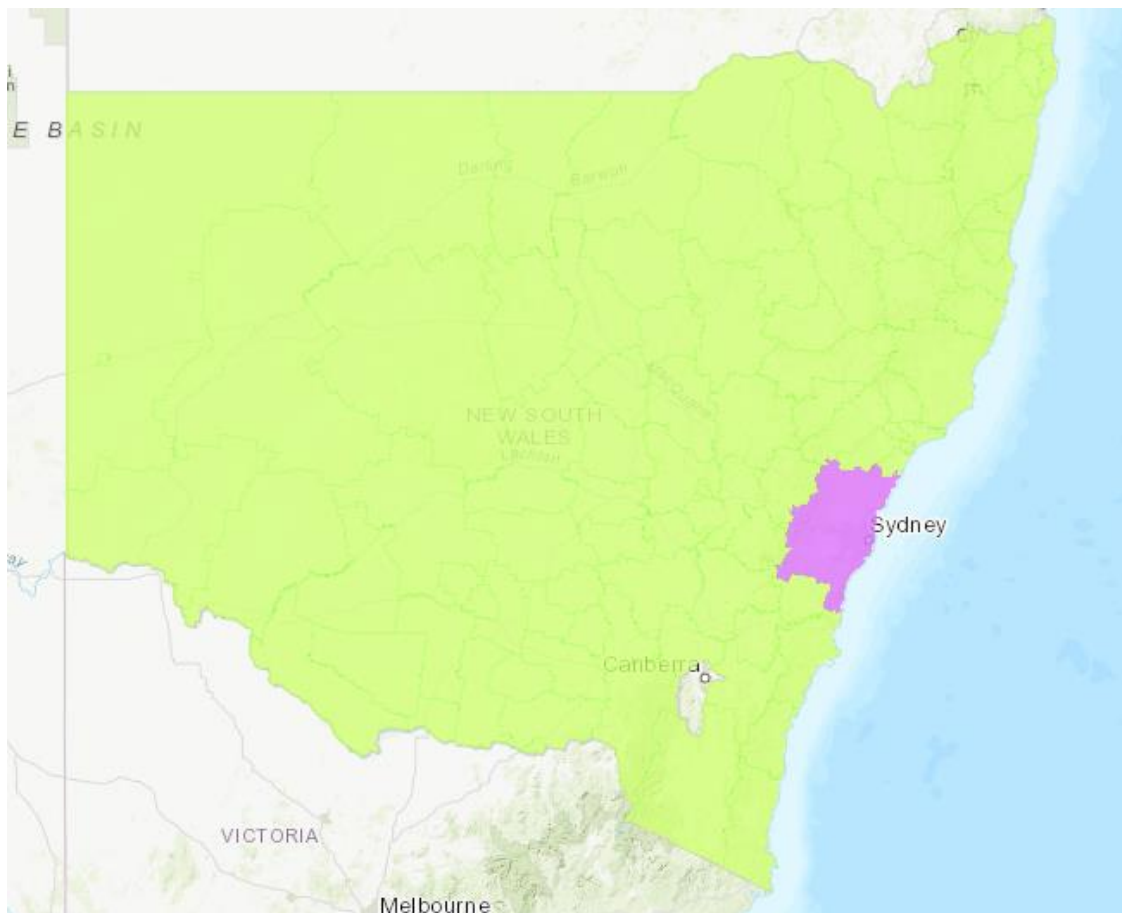
[COVID.Scouting@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:COVID.Scouting@nsw.scouts.com.au)



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## REGIONAL & RURAL NSW & GREATER SYDNEY



Greater Sydney means the following—

- the Greater Sydney Region within the meaning of the Greater Sydney Commission Act 2015,
- the Central Coast local government area,
- the City of Shellharbour local government area,
- the City of Wollongong local government area.



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## WHO NEEDS TO BE VACCINATED?

Scouts NSW supports the Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the NSW Public Health Orders which take precedence.

There is no longer a requirement under the Public Health Orders for Adults and Youth Helpers aged 16 and above to **have received two or three doses** of a COVID-19 vaccine. In support of the Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy, and in the interests of public health, Scouts NSW promotes vaccination for members inline with the medical led advocacy of vaccination.

At all times, all reasonable steps must be taken to provide a safe environment for all. Reasonable steps include but are not limited to a risk management plan, COVID Safe Plan, Service NSW QR codes, wearing of face masks, physical distancing, hand washing and sanitation, and discouraging anyone feeling unwell from attending the event. These reasonable steps should be documented per activity.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN MEET?

Scouts Halls in NSW can be considered a **recreation facility (indoor)**. This means a building or place used predominantly for indoor recreation, whether or not operated for the purposes of gain, including a squash court, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, table tennis centre, health studio, bowling alley, ice rink or any other building or place of a like character used for indoor recreation, but does not include an entertainment facility, a recreation facility (major) or a registered club (a club that holds a club licence under the Liquor Act 2007).

There is currently no requirement for density limits on Scouts NSW Scout Halls. Scouts NSW does encourage meeting in outdoors areas where possible and always practicing physical distancing.

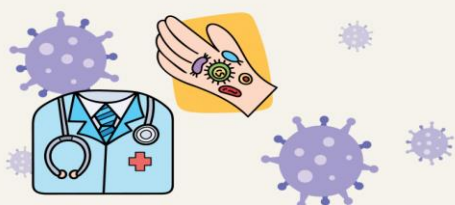
If your venue is NOT a Scout Hall and you seek further clarification, please email the Scouts NSW COVID Response team at [COVID.Scouting@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:COVID.Scouting@nsw.scouts.com.au) with information about your venue and activity taking place to allow our volunteers to review and interpret the Public Health Order definitions.

## DO WE NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

Fitted face coverings are currently only mandated in limited settings by the Public Health Orders.

Scouts NSW encourages the use of face coverings for all where it is safe to do so and where physical distancing is not possible.

Fitted face coverings must be worn by a person aged 12 and above when at an airport, hospital or health facility, residential aged care facility and whilst waiting for and travelling on public transport including taxi and rideshare services.



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## DO WE NEED TO CHECK-IN?

Scouts NSW venues and halls are no longer required to display and use the NSW Government QR code. Where reasonable and not to cause too much inconvenience, Scouts NSW encourages the continued use of NSW Government QR Codes where available, allowing members and visitors to check in using the Service NSW app. Where possible, users of smart devices should use this process to check-in and check-out of the venue.

If it is not possible for a person to check in using a device (e.g. a Joey Scout), Groups should maintain a listing of members present at the meeting.

Scouts NSW recommends and prefers the use of the Service NSW Business Online Web Check-in form (over manual processes) to check in Youth Members on behalf of their parents. Information about this facility can be found by logging into the Business (Scout Hall Venue) registration for the COVID Check-In QR Code. This facility also allows for venue administrators to scan individuals in using their NSW Health Card. The venue admin should share the link and credentials to the Business Online form with all Section Leaders who may need to use this function.

Leaders **MUST** not check-in youth members as dependants at Scout Halls or other venues (unless they are that Leader's own children). Leaders can use the manual sign-in process for unaccompanied Joey Scouts. Parents who are remaining for the meeting can sign-in themselves and add their dependant youth member.

## DO WE NEED A COVID MARSHAL?

No, a COVID Check-in Marshal is no-longer required for activities.

## CAN SCOUTS TRAVEL?

Domestic travel within NSW is permitted. Members should ensure they are up to date with travel requirements for each area of the State or Territory they are travelling to. Border closures although unlikely are possible and members need to be aware of and plan for the risk of a border closure during their stay.

Carpooling is permitted. Wearing of face masks is recommended when the people within the car are not from the same family household.

Scouts NSW two deep leadership **MUST** be adhered to policy when transporting youth members.

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## CAN SCOUTS CAMP?

YES –Scouts can camp.

There are no density limits on camping within NSW.

Scouts NSW, in the interests of safety and public health recommend tent capacity be halved to assist stopping the spread. This means,

- a 4 person tent should only sleep 2 people.
- A 6 person tent should only sleep 3 people.

The exception to this recommendation would be when the individuals in the tent are camped with their normal household members.

Bunk accommodation can be used.

Scouts NSW requirements for Child Protection in relation to adults over the age of 18, attending overnight activities MUST be followed. This includes the need for a Working with Children Check and M5 form to and submission of an A2 for as per [PRO11 Working With Children Checks \(WWCC\)](#).

## CAN SCOUTS SING AND DANCE?

Singing and Dancing (including Gang Show rehearsals and performances) is only permitted where the following can be met:

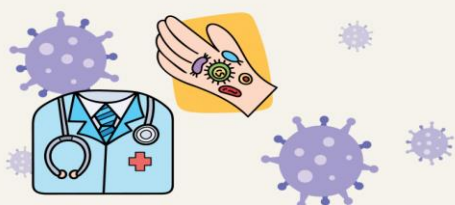
- an event that uses a single stage,
- is proposed to be held over a period of less than 5 hours and
- has not more than 2 headlining performers and
- not more than 4 performers in total, including supporting performers.

If your event does not meet the above, but is

- Held within a defined area
- A ticketed event
- Everyone is fully vaccinated

Your event can take place providing, all reasonable steps are taken to provide a safe environment for all. Reasonable steps include but are not limited to a risk management plan, COVID Safe Plan, Service NSW QR codes, wearing of face masks, physical distancing, hand washing and sanitation, and discouraging anyone feeling unwell from attending the event. These reasonable steps should be documented per activity





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Special consideration needs to be given to the reputational risks associated with Gangshow rehearsals and performances. This should be documented in the risk assessment including mitigation strategies.

## A PERSON IS UNWELL

Scouts, Leaders, and parents should not attend the Unit meeting or activity if they feel unwell. We know this can be upsetting, but if an individual is unwell, they should stay home and get better, to ensure when they return to the Unit Meetings they can participate fully.

If a participant becomes unwell whilst at the Unit Meeting, Leaders should contact the parent or caregiver and organise to have the individual picked up.

## COVID SAFE CLEANING

The area in which you meet should be kept clean and tidy. Washing hands with soap under running water and using disposable hand towels can help keep our members healthy and safe. Hand sanitiser should be made available and used frequently.

Participants may choose to wear gloves when encountering frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, tabletops, light switches, shared equipment, shared tools, telephones, kitchen equipment, sinks, basins, bathrooms, and toilets. Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned and regularly disinfected by hand. Use detergent solution and disinfection (follow instructions) or scrub by hand using detergent/disinfectant wipes.

## A MEMBER IS A CLOSE CONTACT

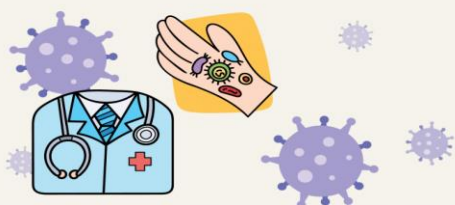
If one of your members is considered a Close Contact by NSW Health, they will need to follow the guidance and advice of NSW Health. They should not attend the Unit meeting until they have been cleared by NSW Health or met the requirements under the Stay-at-home orders.

## A MEMBER HAS COVID

If one of your members has been diagnosed with COVID they must not attend the Unit meeting. NSW Health will issue directives to the individual and perform contact tracing. Everyone must follow the guidance and advice of NSW Health. They should not attend the Unit meeting until they have been cleared by NSW Health.

The individual diagnosed with COVID, must immediately after becoming aware that they have tested positive to COVID-19, take reasonable steps to notify Scouts NSW of their positive diagnosis.

This positive case **MUST** be logged in the Scouts NSW WHS Platform as an 'incident', not to be investigated but to be noted formally in accordance with the Public Health Order.



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## RETURNING TO SCOUTING AFTER COVID

If one of your members has been diagnosed with COVID and followed the advice of NSW Health, they will be ready to attend Unit meetings once they have received a Medical Clearance Notice from NSW Health. The Medical Clearance Notice is issued when someone tests positive and has completed their isolation

## I HAVE COMPROMISED IMMUNITY

If you, someone in your Unit has compromised immunity (e.g. is currently receiving chemotherapy treatment) the Unit Council may make the decision to mandate everyone in attendance at a Unit meeting must be vaccinated. Equally, you can suggest, for their own safety, the individual with compromised immunity not attend a specific Unit Meeting. It is important to ensure any decision is fair and equitable for all members and made considering the Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy.

## CAN WE HAVE A LARGER ACTIVITY?

There is currently no limit on the number of people that can meet. All members should be physically distanced remaining 1.5m apart during activities.

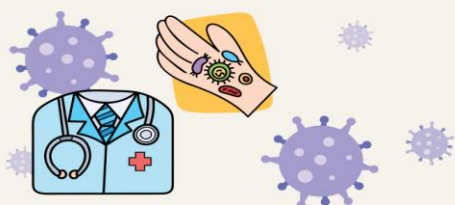
Scouts NSW, requires activity organisers to consider their risks inline with risk assessments and detail COVID-19 as a risk. Each event coordinator should review the risks associated with COVID and detail their mitigation strategies. A COVID-19 safe Event Plan is available to assist informing the event organiser of COVID considerations and is highly recommended to be used (See section *Holding an event?*)..

## CHECKING A VACCINATION STATUS

Although there is no requirement for the formation or activity Leader in charge to check the vaccination status of every member, it is acceptable to ask for proof of vaccination for activity participants aged 16 and above. All members are expected to follow the Scout Law and the Law of NSW and be honest about their vaccination status. All adults MUST check-in using the Service NSW QR code which, in time will also show an individual's vaccination status.

## SHARING EQUIPMENT

At a Unit meeting it is common to share equipment such as ropes, compasses, balls, and stationery. Where possible, items should be cleaned and disinfected prior to use and before being put away. Members touching these items should wash and dry their hands after use and apply hand sanitiser. Where possible, members should use their own pens and pencils, phones, and drink bottles rather than communal items at the activity location.



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## DO WE NEED A COVID SAFE PLAN?

No – Your Scout Hall, Training Room or outdoor activity does not need a COVID Safe Plan.

Scouts NSW recommends each Group completes a COVID Safe Plan to highlight the importance of cleaning and COVID Safe practices. The Group Leader or delegate should be responsible for completing this plan in conjunction with others. This plan may be the same or like your 2020 plan but should be reviewed to ensure it is in line with current Health Orders and everyone understands the contents of the plan. Please visit [COVID-19 Safety Plan: community centres and halls](#) for the template.

## HOLDING AN EVENT?

Scouts NSW encourages a COVID Safe plan be written in conjunction with your standard Risk Assessment for each event you hold, or clear detailed mitigation strategies be included in your standard risk assessment.

The COVID Safe Event TEMPLATE can be downloaded from:

<https://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Scouts-NSW-Event-COVIDSafe-Plan-Template.docx> and used to consider COVID related risks

Masks are to be worn by anyone preparing, cooking, or serving food. Gloves should also be worn by these people and changed regularly.

Scouts NSW discourages the use of stagnate water for handwashing. If you are unable to have running handwashing at the gateway, encourage frequent washing at running taps and drying hands before using hand sanitiser.