

## SCOUTING SAFELY RECOMMENDATIONS & PLANNING GUIDE\*

The following is meant to serve as guidance to help units plan how to safely conduct Scouting activities. These are best practices developed with consideration of updated recommendations from the CDC, and in consultation with the council COVID-19 Task Force, to provide for the safety of all Scouts and their families. Unit program should be conducted in accordance with current guidelines from the state of Ohio and CDC with approval of the unit's chartered organization and subject to the current COVID-19 protocols of any meeting/activity facility. Until the state health orders issued have fully expired (Ohio anticipated June 2), units should continue to follow MVC's May 7 guidance. We encourage unit leadership to review these recommendations to determine how to safely operate and plan the best path forward for their Scouting programs.

\* Abide by guidance and restrictions from the state or county for your activity destination as well as your point of origin if applicable.

\* Scouting Safely Planning Guide is subject to change with updated COVID-19 guidance from local, state, and federal sources.

\* Always consult with your Chartered Organization before conducting an activity, and abide any additional guidelines provided by the organization.

\* Should you have questions or concerns regarding the safe restart of Scouting in your unit, please email [info@miamivalleybsa.org](mailto:info@miamivalleybsa.org)



**1** Develop your Scout Unit's COVID-19 'Scouting Safely' plan with your unit committee.



**2** Share your plan with your Scout Unit's Chartered Organization. Discuss other requirements and guidelines they may have in place and if your Scout unit has permission to begin using their facilities/ space for meetings.



**3** Communicate your unit's plan to your Scouting families. Be sensitive to all families and consider that many Scouting participants are not age-eligible to receive the vaccine. Parents should only resume Scouting when they are comfortable. Parents are highly encouraged to ask their unit leadership questions about the unit's plan to restart Scouting safely and a unit should ONLY begin meeting if social distancing can be assured.



**4** Monitor and adjust your unit's plan to be current with any new local, state, or federal changes.



### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. The Miami Valley Council fully supports the right of every individual to ensure their own safety and well-being. A person may wear a mask and take additional safety precautions at any time if they prefer to do so.
2. While national, state, and local guidance is generally provided, our chartered organizations may dictate more stringent practices and procedures/guidelines for personal safety. Units must operate minding any additional guidance implied by their chartered organization.
3. The Miami Valley Council continues to partner with our local health departments and review updated guidance from the State of Ohio, CDC, and National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



### FACIAL COVERINGS

Individuals who are fully vaccinated (i.e. those 2 weeks following receipt of either the second dose of a 2-dose series or one dose of a single-dose series per the CDC Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons) can participate in meetings and activities without wearing a mask. Those not vaccinated must continue to wear masks indoors only when social distancing is not possible. The Miami Valley Council will not seek any documentation from groups or individuals regarding their vaccination status. Individuals with health conditions that preclude wearing a face covering are exempt.



## GROUP SIZES

There are no longer any restrictions on the size of groups at meetings or activities. Only maximum capacity requirements of local health, fire, and safety codes apply. Social distancing is still encouraged particularly in groups of mixed-vaccination status.



## CAMPING & OUR FACILITIES

1. All Miami Valley Council facilities are fully open to reserve at [www.miamivalleybsa.org/rental](http://www.miamivalleybsa.org/rental) with traditional capacity limits.
2. Safety guidance and planning for Scouts BSA Resident Camp at **Woodland Trails Scout Reservation** can be found at [https://scoutingevent.com/Download/44477355/OR/Resident\\_Camp\\_COVID\\_Protocols.pdf](https://scoutingevent.com/Download/44477355/OR/Resident_Camp_COVID_Protocols.pdf).
3. One Scout per tent is recommended unless Scouts are from the same household or Scouts are fully vaccinated. However, sharing of tents is allowable if necessary. Campers should sleep head to feet and maintain as much space and ventilation as possible.



## TRANSPORTATION

1. CARPOOLING: Make every effort to keep Scouting experiences and adventures close to home to allow as many families as possible the opportunity to participate without having to make the difficult decision to send their Scout on a bus, van or in a carpool. If carpooling is necessary, please follow the CDC guidelines (found page 3 'Additional Resources') for carpooling.
2. Observe the guidelines and other travel restrictions that may be in place at the destination, particularly if it is in another state



## DINING & FOOD PREP

Consider having at least one adult that reviews *ServSafe* guidelines and ensures that any youth involved in food service are directly supervised by adults. For campsite cooking or cooking 'in the field', consider using disposal food service items if proper cleaning and sanitation can't be maintained. Visit [www.servsafe.com](http://www.servsafe.com) for more information on food preparation amidst the Coronavirus Pandemic.



## HEALTH & SAFETY

1. FOR EASE IN CONTACT TRACING: Maintain attendance records and have a check-in policy for any scout, parent, leader, family member, visitor. Please record ALL individuals attending, with email addresses.
2. Have a prepared plan to address medical protocol should a Scout or Scouter become ill during a meeting or other activity.



## MVC SERVICE CENTER & DISTRICT/COUNCIL OPERATIONS

1. In-person meetings for council and district committees may begin to take place, with a virtual (zoom, etc) option where possible.
2. Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear a mask when shopping at the Scout Shop or visiting the service center. Those not vaccinated must continue to wear masks when social distancing is not possible.

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Updated May 27, 2021

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer frequently. Avoid touching your face. Cover coughs or sneezes (e.g., into a tissue, or elbow). For more resources to reduce the risk of spread visit the CDC website at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>



Per CDC, symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. This list of symptoms can change as more is learned about COVID-19, and CDC updates this list on its website at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



Make every effort to keep Scouting experiences and adventures close to home to allow as many families as possible the opportunity to participate without having to make the difficult decision to send their Scout on a bus, van or in a carpool. If carpooling is necessary, please follow the CDC guidelines (links below) for carpooling.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/organizations/carpooling-fs.pdf>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/using-transportation.html#bikes>

### In the event of a COVID 19 exposure:

1. Immediately isolate those exposed from other people and notify family/families. Exposed individual(s) should seek immediate medical care.

2. Report the exposure to the local county department of public health:

FOR DARKE COUNTY:

<http://www.darkecountyhealth.org>

FOR PREBLE COUNTY:

<http://www.preblecountyhealth.org>

FOR MIAMI COUNTY:

<http://www.miamicountyhealth.net>

FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY:

<http://www.phdmc.org>

FOR SHELBY COUNTY:

<http://www.shelbycountyhealthdept.org>

3. Report the incident through the National Boy Scouts of America's incident reporting tool at:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/covid-19-incidents-exposures-supplemental->

4. Notify your local Scouting professional. Contact names, phone numbers and emails can be found at:

<http://www.miamivalleybsa.org/About/Contact/>



For information on developing a contact tracing plan or for more resources visit the National BSA COVID resource website at:

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/incident-report/covid-19-incidents-exposures-supplemental-instructions/>

