

SCOUTING SAFELY RECOMMENDATIONS & PLANNING GUIDE*

Our COVID-19 Task Force continues to monitor local trends on COVID cases, as well as vaccination rates in our communities, as we look to make more adjustments to our Scouting Safely protocols. Fortunately, cases are declining in the counties served by the Miami Valley Council (Montgomery, Miami, Shelby, Preble, and Darke) and we continue to see increasing vaccination rates. The 'Return to Scouting Safely Recommendation and Planning Guide' has been largely modified. Our Scouts, Leaders, and staff have been making great progress with the Scouting program this year, and we are looking forward to taking this next step in our response to COVID-19. Please continue to follow reporting protocols highlighted in the Resources Section of the 'Scouting Safely Recommendations & Planning Guide.'

* 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



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. Keep in mind that local municipalities may also dictate more stringent practices. Consider the restrictions of other communities and states should your Scouting unit be traveling.
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

FACE MASKS ARE OPTIONAL* and are not required to be worn at district and council-level functions and facilities. We know there may be individuals who prefer to keep wearing a mask, and that choice will be acceptable, supported, and respected. This decision was made with the support of the Miami Valley Council Executive Committee and the COVID-19 Task Force. We strongly encourage our Scouting Units to revisit any adjustments to their COVID Safe Scouting Plan with Chartered Organization Leadership, Unit Leadership, and Families

* Unless local municipal ordinances or chartered organizations dictate more stringent practices/ guidelines for personal safety.

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).

[CLICK HERE FOR HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS](#)



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.

[CLICK HERE FOR HOW TO IDENTIFY SYMPTOMS](#)

In the event of a COVID 19 exposure:

1. Isolate those exposed from other people and notify family/families.
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:

[CLICK HERE FOR HOW TO REPORT AN INCIDENT THROUGH NATIONAL BSA](#)

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

[CONTACT US](#)