

# Guidance on In-Person Unit Meetings and Unit Activities

June 15, 2020

## Overview

These guidelines are subject to change. Please consult with your state websites for up-to-date guidance.

**Safety First:** As with any Scouting activity the Safety of our members is paramount. Always follow Youth Protection Guidelines, the Guide to Safe Scouting, and all local guidance on COVID-19. Before any meeting or activity ask the question – Can we do it safely and comply with all guidance and regulations?

**Respect & Accommodate:** Understand that some families may not be able to or be comfortable with resuming in-person meetings and activities yet. They may have family members at home with underlying health conditions or have other concerns. Be respectful and attempt to keep those Scouts engaged with your unit via virtual means even while your unit resumes meetings or activities. Encourage them to resume in-person participation only when it is right for them.

- Your unit may choose to continue strictly virtual meetings and activities
- Rhode Island units may meet locally in small groups of 15 or fewer per these guidelines
- Massachusetts units may meet locally in small groups of 10 or fewer per these guidelines
- Connecticut units may not yet meet (anticipating June 29)
- Overnight activities are not permitted at this time
- Coming into close proximity with someone outside your household increases your risk and should be limited as much as possible

If a unit is ready to hold in-person meetings or activities, the unit must agree to:

- Follow all guidelines as outlined in this document.
- Follow all social distancing policies put in place by local, state, and federal governments. This includes any guidance by the CDC and the Health Department.
- Comply with any other requirements made by meeting location or Chartered Organization.
- Signed waivers by the adult leader, volunteer or parent/legal guardian of child will be obtained and kept on file with the unit.
- Adhere to the BSA Youth Protection policies

## Procedures

**Waiver and Medical History:** All parents, leaders and Scouts who are participating must sign the statement of risk prior to participating. All participants (adult and youth) must give to the unit leadership a current (within 12 months) BSA Health and Medical Record Parts A & B (does not require doctor visit). [Download the form here.](#) Parents and leaders must read and sign the participant waiver. [Download the statement here.](#) The unit must keep a folder of all risk statements and medical records together in a secure location.

**Group Sizes:** Participants are required to be organized in “stable groups” of a maximum of 10 people in Massachusetts, 15 people in Rhode Island. The term “stable groups” means the same

individuals, including children, staff and any adult leaders, remain in the same group over the course of the entire summer. Each “stable group” must include at least 2 adult leaders. Children shall not change from one group to another, and groups should occupy the same physical space. Scouts and leaders cannot change groups from week to week. Parents and caregivers should choose one stable group for their child.

**Physical Distancing:** Physical distancing is encouraged and should be maintained whenever possible. Activities where at least six feet of distance can be maintained are encouraged and 14 feet of distance is preferred. It is acknowledged that when engaged in active play, participants may not be able to maintain the 6 foot distance. When not engaged in active play, members of a stable group should maintain physical distance of six feet between each person.

Leaders should not move between groups, even from day-to-day. The same leaders should stay with the same group of Scouts. Overall leaders that will be giving leadership to multiple groups should stay at least 14 feet away from the groups.

**Space Between Stable Groups:** Stable groups are required to maintain a minimum of 14 feet between the outer limit of their group play and any other stable group or passersby

**Screening:** Parents should screen their child and take their temperature prior to leaving their house. Screen adult leaders and youth participants daily prior to the activity for any symptoms of COVID-19. A screening tool is available, in English and Spanish, to aid with proper screening at <https://health.ri.gov/covid/for/business/>. Any person exhibiting signs of illness or who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 must be excluded from the activity in accordance with CDC and RI Department of Health guidelines at <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>

**Face Coverings:** Masks are required for adults at all times or when unable to easily, continuously, and measurably keep six feet of physical distance from others. Youth participants are encouraged to wear face coverings when not engaged in active play. While engaged in the active play of sports or strenuous activities, youth participants do not need to wear a face covering. However, youth participants should be encouraged to wear face masks at all other times. Face coverings shall not be required of those who are unable to comply for health or developmental reasons, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a mask.

**Hand Cleaning:** Frequent handwashing or sanitization before, during, and after meeting/activity. If soap and water are unavailable, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used. Leaders must ensure that hand washing facilities are available and/or provide hand sanitizer for all participants.

**Facilities:** Plan unit activities that happen outdoors. If you are meeting indoors, obtain permission from your chartered partner or place where you hold your meetings. Your meeting space should be following the recommended CDC guidelines for sanitization. If holding an activity, all areas should follow CDC guidelines for sanitization before and after activity. Check with your Chartered Partner/Host on their guidelines and procedures for sanitizing. Narragansett Council camps are **not** open at this time. Check [www.ncbsa.org](http://www.ncbsa.org) for the latest updates on camp availability.

**Shared Objects:** Shared objects/equipment is discouraged. If camping, tents should be limited to one Scout or a family following all Youth Protection Guidelines. Scouts from different

households should not be in the same tent. Food and beverages should not be shared. Each Scout/family is responsible for their own food and beverage.

**Daily Briefing:** At the start of each meeting or activity, remind participants (youth and adult) of the following:

1. Before beginning the meeting or activity, everyone washes or sanitizes their hands
2. Wash or sanitize hands frequently during the meeting or activity
3. Everyone is to wear face masks except when participating in active/strenuous activities
4. Maintain social distancing of 6 feet when possible
5. Maintain distance of at least 14 feet from anyone not in your group. You may not interact with any other groups
6. All equipment needs to be sanitized between people using them
7. No sharing of food—you can only eat what you brought with you
8. If you don't feel well, sit down and let a leader know
9. Other (non-COVID) reminders: hydration, sunscreen, hats, etc.
10. Set the example for other non-Scouting groups

**Stay local/Quarantine:** Don't travel to other areas or invite others to join you. Follow State guidelines on travel to other areas. No crossing state borders for Scouting meetings and activities at this time—Scouts must participate in activities within the state that they reside.

**Communication:** Leaders should create and share a plan for safety to share with all parents prior to gathering and appoint one person as the main point of contact for parents.

**Procedures:**

1. Adult leaders must provide education and training around safe practices as it relates to hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in this document.
2. Require all adult leaders, volunteers and youth to report any symptoms of COVID-19 or close contact to a person with COVID-19 to an adult leader. Adult leaders, volunteers and youth should not attend events if they feel sick.
3. Symptomatic persons should be instructed to contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home
4. Adult leaders and volunteers should not transport any youth that are not immediate family members. In the event, that this becomes necessary, all parties must wear cloth face coverings and space out seating to maintain maximal distance from each other.
5. During activity/meetings, parents/guardians are encouraged to remain in their cars in a designated parking area.
6. However, when/if watching from outside cars in the parking area, they should maintain safe social distance from others.
7. Adult leaders, volunteers and youth should arrive to the activity/meeting already dressed and prepared to participate.
8. Youth shall bring their own equipment and not share their personal equipment with other youth. Shared equipment provided by the unit must be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidance after every use between youth.
9. Unit equipment and daypacks of youth should be placed 6-feet apart. Youth should not touch other scouts'

10. handbooks, youth bags, equipment, or water bottles.
11. Centralized areas for congregating should be avoided.

**Stay Informed:** Guidance from each State is changing rapidly. Stay up-to-date on the changing regulations at:

[www.reopeningri.com](http://www.reopeningri.com)

[https://www.reopeningri.com/resource\\_pdfs/Phase-II/Phase-II-summer-camp-guidance-05.21.20.pdf](https://www.reopeningri.com/resource_pdfs/Phase-II/Phase-II-summer-camp-guidance-05.21.20.pdf)

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

<https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

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

[https://www.reopeningri.com/resource\\_pdfs/Phase-II/Child-Illness-Policy.pdf](https://www.reopeningri.com/resource_pdfs/Phase-II/Child-Illness-Policy.pdf)

<https://www.aspenprojectplay.org/return-to-play>

[www.ncbsa.org](http://www.ncbsa.org)

## **SAMPLE TEMPLATE FOR UNIT COMMUNICATION PLAN TO PARENTS**

### Prior to meeting/activity

- You must complete the Health & Medical Record Parts A & B and sign the waiver form and turn in to the leaders.
- You must complete the pre-screening checklist prior to each day of activity/meeting. Take your child's temperature. If your child has a fever or exhibits any symptoms, they should stay home.

### Drop off for meeting/activity

- All adults dropping off Scouts must wear a mask
- When dropping off your Scout enter the parking lot at X entrance and follow instructions for exit
- If meeting is indoors: adults are not allowed in who are not running the meeting
- Hand sanitizer will be provided upon entry

### Pick up

- All adults picking up Scouts must wear a mask
- When picking up your Scout enter and exit parking lot the same as when you dropped off
- Do not enter the building, knock on door to alert for pick up, remain in vehicle until meeting is finished, or contact designated leader to let them know you have arrived
- Hand sanitizer will be provided upon departure

### Travel

- Scouts must be brought to the location, i.e. there will be no carpooling

### Hours

- *what is the timeframe for the meeting/activity*

### Stable Group Sizes

- There will be no more than 13 youth in a group (or if you have multiple patrols list the number per patrol, while following the guidance of no more than 15 people total).
- Leaders will be wearing masks the entire time

### Cleaning

- *Share details on how cleaning is being handled by your venue*

### Food/Drink

- Scouts must bring their own food/drink that will remain with them
- There will be no heating/refrigeration available
- Food/drink sharing is not allowed. Send your Scout with the appropriate items to meet their needs/the needs of our activity

### Other Precautions

- If you have someone living at your home who is at high-risk of COVID-19, your child should not participate in Scouting activities.
- If your Scout feels sick or has not been fever free for 72 hours, they should not and cannot attend
- Scouts will be allowed to interact, in their designated stable group. They will not be able to change groups at any time
- Participants will wear face masks except when engaged in active or strenuous activities
- Participants will social distance when possible within their group realizing that during games or activities, distancing is not always feasible
- Leaders will not be handling any medication, including over the counter medication