

## GSCI CURRENT COVID 19 GUIDELINES

Effective as Illinois is in Phase 4 (**EFFECTIVE July 30, 2020**) and until further notice.

This guidance is being provided as of the effective date above. GSCI may modify this guidance, as circumstances change.

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. Take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for girls, volunteers, and families.

Please remember, in person troop meetings are not required.

Each troop/family should weigh their participation based on their own health concerns.

NOTE: Individual communities in Illinois may establish stricter requirements. If that is the case in your community, you must adapt these guidelines to meet those requirements. Please reach out to council with any additional questions. [customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org](mailto:customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org); 888-623-1237.

State of Illinois Phase 4 Guidelines	What this means for Girl Scouts in GSCI
<p>Allows for gatherings with the lesser of up to 50 people. Facilities can only have 50% of overall room capacity. Source: IDH website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Troops may meet in groups of up to 50—total girls and adults, meeting GSUSA girl/adult ratios.</li> <li>• Larger troops may break into smaller groups with each group meeting at the same time but divided into smaller groups. Girl/adult ratios must be followed in each individual group. Girls in the groups are to remain static. Do not move girls from one group to another during the meeting or from one week to the next. Groups are to stay 30 feet apart from each other.</li> <li>• Adults should continue to meet the girls at a designated drop off location where parents can simply drive up and drop-off/pick-up their Girl Scout. This ensures that larger groups are not gathering to wait for troop participants.</li> <li>• (See below for GSCI's guidelines on meeting locations.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Distancing.</b> Maintain at least six-foot distance from other individuals. <b>NO PHYSICAL CONTACT.</b> Source: CDC and IDH website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark off distances on the ground or group sitting accordingly.</li> <li>• Adults are responsible for monitoring all social distancing guidelines.</li> <li>• Girl Scout traditions, such as Friendship Circles, must be adapted or not done.</li> <li>• Games/activities need to be chosen to ensure physical contact is not happening.</li> <li>• <b>NOTE:</b> We highly recommend maintaining the six-foot distancing throughout the meeting. We understand there may be a time when that is difficult, for example a leader may need to work closer with a girl, face coverings are to be worn.</li> </ul>

<p><i>Everyone over the age of 2 who can medically tolerate a <b>face covering</b> over their nose and mouth must wear one in a public place when unable to maintain a safe distance (6 feet) from others. Source: IDH website</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face coverings must be worn if the six-foot distancing cannot be kept and <b>it is highly recommended that masks be worn</b> even when adhering to the 6-foot distance reduce the risk of spreading/contracting the virus.</li> <li>• As everyone is already required to wear facial coverings, council is not providing them.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wash hands</b> with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or <b>use hand sanitizer</b>. Source: CDC website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have hand washing/sanitizing supplies available.</li> <li>• Sanitize hands upon arrival, throughout (at least every 30 minutes) and just before leaving.</li> </ul>
<p>Teach girls to cover coughs or sneezes into the sleeve or elbow, not hands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remind troop members of appropriate process.</li> <li>• If not followed, ensure participant sanitizes hands and any surfaces coughed/sneezed on are cleaned.</li> </ul>
<p>Regularly clean high-touch surface</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas at your meeting location that will need to be wiped down after each person touches it—door handles, handle of toilet, faucets, tables, etc. and</li> <li>• Ensure they are wiped down after each participant touches it.</li> <li>• Minimize the use of shared materials such as markers, crayons, scissors, etc. by having each girl provide her own box of identified items. This box can be carried to and from the meeting by the individual girl. If collected and stored in one location, each box should be wiped off with sanitizing wipe before stored.</li> <li>• If there are shared items, sanitize after each individual person uses the item.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Additional Guidelines from GSCI</b></p>	
<p><b>Food and Drink</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure each participant brings their own filled-water bottle. Water fountains are closed.</li> <li>• If snacks must be served, each participant is to bring their own. They are not to be shared.</li> <li>• Do not share dishes/utensils.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Location</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSCI recommends meetings take place outdoors. If a meeting is being held indoors, State Guidelines recommend that activities requiring physical exertion and/or exertion of voice be held outdoors when possible. Get advance permission from the property owner or the jurisdiction that provide the location. <b>In all cases, indoor or outdoor, social distancing MUST be maintained and facial coverings worn.</b></li> </ul>

<p><i>Your membership staff is available to help find an alternative meeting location.</i></p> <p><b>TROOP MEETINGS IN THE HOME</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For indoor facilities, maximum occupancy of 50% of facility capacity is permitted. If a meeting room holds 30, you have no more than 15 participants (girls and adults) <b>AND</b> you must ensure social distancing of 6 feet between participants can be maintained.</li> <li>• <b>At this time, GSCI Service Centers with meeting rooms CAN NOT be used due to inability to ensure social distancing can be maintained.</b></li> <li>• <b>Outside space at GSCI Service Centers in Springfield, Decatur, Bloomington, and Peoria is available. Contact <a href="mailto:customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org">customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org</a> to reserve space.</b></li> <li>• For meetings held in public areas, volunteers must ensure the space is clean and touch surfaces (i.e., tabletops, chairs, etc.) have been sanitized.</li> <li>• Outdoors, ensure there is at least 30 feet of distance between your troop and any other group that may be meeting in the area. When indoors, ensure your troop meets in a room separate from other groups.</li> <li>• GSUSA girl/adult ratios are to be maintained.</li> <li>• <b>GSUSA and GSCI are not supportive of meetings in the home or in outdoor space at homes out of concern of an increased risk of exposure to other family members.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Length of Meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage you to keep your meetings relatively short to limit the number of bathroom trips. Many public bathrooms, such as at parks, are currently not open. We suggest 1 hour meetings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Screenings—self evaluation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents should ensure their child does not have a temperature or feel ill prior to coming to the troop meeting. If a child has a temperature over 98.6, they are to not participate in person. If a child is feeling ill, they are not to participate in person.</li> <li>• Troop members who are ill, living with someone who is ill, or showing symptoms, or in a high-risk category are not to participate in troop meetings.</li> <li>• Parents must determine the risks of allowing their child attend troop meetings and determine if now is the time for their child to resume in-person Girl Scouting.</li> <li>• If a girl or adult become sick at a meeting, they are to be isolated from the group and another adult is to with them, maintain social distancing and masks on. Parents are to be called immediately to pick up girl. If it is an adult who is sick and unable to drive, a family member needs to be called to pick them up.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reporting and communicating a positive COVID-19 test.</b></p>	<p>In the event of a COVID-19 positive test result, do NOT contact the parents or troop members. <b>Promptly contact council in this situation. A council staff member and NOT volunteers, will be responsible for:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirming and tracing the positive tester,</li> <li>• Contacting the parents of anyone who may have been exposed (or other volunteers),</li> <li>• Notifying a facility or homeowner where a troop has met, and</li> <li>• Alerting the state department of health.</li> </ul> <p><b>Let other volunteers know that council staff, NOT volunteers, will notify parents and others about a positive test result and that the tester's identity is confidential.</b></p> <p>Remember that girl and volunteer health information is private and strictly confidential and should be only shared on a need to know basis with a council staff member.</p> <p>We do not expect troop leaders to know and implement HIPPA laws.</p>
<p><b>First Aid Supplies</b></p>	<p><b>Troop first aid supplies need to include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), tissues, a facemask, and disinfectants.</b></p> <p>Trash baskets or bags should be supplied for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Make sure that the trash baskets (or bags) are easily accessible for girls.</p> <p>Disposable or no-contact thermometers may be added to supplies if available and not cost-prohibitive, however, <b>parents are to be checking temperatures and allowing their girl(s) to join group activities only when temperatures are normal, 98.6.</b></p>
<p><b>First Aid/CPR</b></p>	<p>Keep skills up-to-date for any emergency. Talk to your council about alternative methods of training that may be available during this time.</p>

<p><b>Disinfecting and Disinfectants</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces</a> and objects that are frequently touched (i.e., table tops, markers, scissors, etc.). Use a household cleaner, or see the <a href="#">EPA's list of effective cleaners</a> approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).</p> <p>Household bleach is effective against COVID-19 for up to 24 hours when properly diluted. Check that the bleach is not expired and determine if it can be used on a given surface. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.</p> <p>To prepare a bleach solution, mix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 tablespoons (1/3<sup>rd</sup> cup) bleach per gallon of water or</li> <li>• 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water</li> </ul> <p>See the <a href="#">CDC's website</a> for more on cleaning and disinfecting community facilities.</p>
<p><b>Day Trips and Activities.</b></p>	<p>In conjunction with <a href="#">Safety Activity Checkpoints</a>, follow the same guidance as Troop Meetings and Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation guidance in this document.</p> <p>Call ahead to the facility or vendor to confirm that they are following CDC and state health department guidelines.</p> <p>If activity or sporting equipment is being provided, ask the provider if they wipe down equipment in between uses, similar to equipment at the gym.</p> <p>Make whatever appropriate accommodations necessary. For example, bring extra sanitizer if none will be provided for public use at the activity location.</p> <p><b>Please remember that troops traveling outside of council, must submit the Troop Trip Approval Form.</b></p>

## Travel and Overnight Stays

These guidelines are for travel within the United States. No international travel is allowed at this time.

**Travel at this time is limited to family trips** that allow for individual transportation and housing—**no carpooling** and one family per sleeping accommodation (one family per hotel room/one family per tent).

- Currently, the department that licenses Youth Camps in Illinois is not allowing overnight camping, except for family camping. For this reason, we are **NOT ALLOWING** overnight troop camping trips at youth camps either in Illinois or in other states. This includes the use of indoor and outdoor facilities. Only family camping would be approved.
- Family travel includes, at a minimum, youth Girl Scout member accompanied by a minimum of one adult family member. Family trips may also include additional adults and siblings.

**If you answered yes to any of the questions below, do not travel.**

- If you are thinking about traveling away from your local community, ask yourself:
  - Is COVID-19 spreading where you're going?
  - Is COVID-19 spreading in my area?
  - Are those traveling with you more likely to get very ill from COVID-19 or do they live with someone who is more likely to get very ill?
  - Does the state or local government where you live or at your destination require you to stay home for 14 days after traveling?
- If traveling, see additional travel guidelines related to COVID-19 on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).
- Please remember to follow all guidelines regarding group size, social distancing, masks, hand washing, cleaning high-touch surfaces, etc.
- During planning, troops must be clear with families which costs are covered by the troop and which are the responsibility of the family.

**Please remember that troops traveling outside of council, must submit the Troop Trip Approval Form.**