



GSCI Condensed COVID-19 Guidelines as of March 29, 2022

GSCI has updated our COVID guidance in accordance with the current CDC and IDPH guidelines. This comes after the recent announcement from the CDC and the Governor of Illinois lifting the school mask mandates. Masks are no longer required at GSCI council properties. We are giving our members the choice whether to wear a mask, based on their own individual needs and situation. We realize you are better equipped to make the best decision for your families.

So much has changed over the last few months, with vaccine availability opening to younger age groups as well as the recent changes to isolation guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and now the lifting of mask mandates; all of which have prompted this update.

We are aligned with the CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines. So, when in doubt or if you are looking for more details, please see the CDC/IDPH websites. Links provided below.

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

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19.html>

Meetings/Events—applies to troop, service unit, and council meetings/events:

Troop meetings/gatherings can occur in-person or virtually. We are trusting troops/parents to make the best decision for their girls on when and how they'll meet. The expectation is you'll follow the current guidelines being imposed at your meeting place location/facility. Girl Scouts should be good guests and follow the policy of the location where your troop is meeting or conducting program. Therefore, if your SU or troop is meeting in a location that still requires mask, you should respect and follow their guidance.

Likewise, if hosting events, you should follow the guidelines of the location/facility being utilized. Volunteers are also given the authority to set up their own requirements that fall within the safety guidelines for large group settings as outlined in the IDPH recommendations. For overnight events at our camps, reference IDPH guidelines here.

Small/Large Group Gatherings—applies to summer camp:

The CDC has moved towards having camps use the guidance found here for small and large gatherings. IDPH is adapting this guidance for camps in Illinois. **The IDPH website will be updated shortly to reflect this and GSCI's guidance will be updated to reflect this when available.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/gatherings.html>

Masking:

Indoors – Masks are optional indoors at all GSCI service centers and council properties for all patrons. Unvaccinated persons or those at high risk are encouraged to wear masks while participating during indoor activities. As a reminder, if meeting at other facilities, i.e., churches, schools, etc., you need to follow their guidelines, especially if stricter guidance is in place.

Outdoors – Masks are not required, even if social distancing cannot be maintained. If members are more comfortable and choose to wear a mask, that is well within their right.

Note: With masks being optional, please treat each other with kindness because we are all unique and have differing circumstances. Please respect those that choose to wear a mask.

Travel and Overnight Stays:

International Trips: When planning be sure to look at current COVID guidelines from the CDC and for the country/countries in which you plan to travel. (Countries may require vaccination, self-quarantine, and testing.) Be sure to research cancellation policies, as the trip may need to be canceled. Be aware of guidelines to return to the US. In addition, please remember that Girl Scouts do not travel to locations rated “Level 4: Do Not Travel” by the United States Department of State, as outlined in the Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Troop trips within the USA require the submission of a Troop Trip Approval form and council approval. For more information please reach out to cmachula@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Testing Positive for COVID-19:

If you test positive for COVID-19, you should stay home and isolate for 5 days (per the most current CDC guidelines released end of December) as opposed to 10 days. Then continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days. Isolation means staying home when you are sick, or you tested positive.

Quarantine is a strategy used to prevent transmission of COVID-19 by keeping people who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 apart from others.

Close contact is defined as someone who was less than 6 feet away from an infected person (laboratory confirmed or a clinical diagnosis) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

For more information about when to quarantine and who may not have to quarantine check out the following link.

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/quarantine-guidance.html>

Reporting COVID-19:

Volunteer-led meeting/event -To report a positive COVID-19 test result after a person attends a volunteer-led in-person Girl Scout meeting/gathering, we ask that the individual contact the volunteer in charge of the gathering (e.g. troop leader, or Service Unit Manager) directly. The volunteer in charge should notify their council Membership Specialist and fill out the COVID Incident Report form (link below).

<https://www.getyourgirlpower.org/content/dam/girlscouts-getyourgirlpower/documents/membership/COVID%2019%20Incident%20Report%203-29-2022%20Fillable%20FINAL.pdf>