

SECTION 7 SCOUTSAFE
7.15 FACE-TO-FACE SCOUTING UNDER COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

7.15.1.	<p>OVERVIEW</p> <p>Scouts Queensland has a duty of care for the health and well-being of our Youth Members and Adult Members. That duty of care extends to the interactions our Members have in the community when operating face-to-face whilst the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the community remains.</p>
7.15.2.	<p>REFERENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Queensland Government Chief Medical Officer Public Health Directions - Queensland Government COVID Safe Event Checklist - Scouts Qld Campgrounds COVID Safe Operational Plan - FINAL v.25.11.2020
7.15.3.	<p>COVID-19</p> <p>SARS-CoV-2 is a new strain of virus in the coronavirus family that had not been previously identified. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).</p> <p>Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was discovered in 2019 when higher than normal numbers of people in Wuhan, China, started to get pneumonia after having a flu-like illness. When doctors tested, they found these people had a type of coronavirus that had not been seen before. There were already lots of types of coronavirus in the world, but this one was new.</p> <p>COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new virus. Symptoms include fever, coughing, sore throat and shortness of breath. The virus can spread from person to person, but good hygiene can prevent infection.</p>
7.15.4.	<p>GENERAL INFORMATION</p>
7.15.4.1.	<p>NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PREVENTION</p> <p>You may acquire novel coronavirus (COVID-19) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Someone with the virus sneezes or coughs onto you; or, - Someone with the virus coughed or sneezed onto a surface (like a door handle) that you touch, and you get the infected droplets on your hands and then transfer them to your mouth, nose or eyes when you touch your face. <p>There are five ways we can help stop the spread of viruses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs. Cleaning your hands often and properly means that you can prevent viruses from entering your body. That means washing your hands when you have been out and about and before you eat and after you go to the toilet; - Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or bent elbow when coughing or sneezing; - Avoid touching your face, nose or mouth and avoid shaking hands; - Stay home if you are unwell; and, - Social distancing - try to stay 1.5m away from anyone and if social distancing cannot be maintained and a member is required to be in a less than 1.5 metre distance for a period of more than 15 mins then medical face masks should be worn by all members within the space. <p>Vaccination remains the best long-term way of controlling COVID-19 that we have available to us, and we strongly encourage Members to protect our families and the vulnerable within the community by getting vaccinated.</p> <p>The Commonwealth Government has an eLearning module on COVID-19 infection control and it is recommended it be completed by at least all Commissioners, Group Leaders and conveners of food stalls (sausage sizzles etc). That training module is available here:</p>

	<p>https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training. Send scan of the completion certificate to training@scoutsqld.com.au for recording on SMS.</p>
7.15.4.2.	<p>VULNERABLE PERSONS</p> <p>Members who are vulnerable (i.e., including unvaccinated, chronic medical conditions, immuno-compromised, age >70, age >50 if Indigenous) should consider their individual risks regarding planned Scouting activities and seek advice as needed from their individual health care practitioner.</p> <p>Where the Government mandates the wearing of face masks under circumstances that are applicable to specific Scouting activities and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - you are exempt under the Government mandate, a risk assessment for face-to-face attendance at the specific Scout activity will be used to determine whether your health or the health of others is at risk through attendance. If there is a high or extreme level of risk, do not attend. face-to-face; or - you are not exempt and do not want to comply, for your own health and the health of others, do not participate face-to-face in Scout events.
7.15.4.3.	<p>CLOSE CONTACTS OF A DIAGNOSED PERSON</p> <p>A person who is informed or becomes aware they are a close contact of a diagnosed person must undertake a COVID-19 test as soon as practical. If the test results are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. positive for COVID-19, follow the 7-day isolation requirement for persons with COVID-19 b. negative for COVID-19 but the person has COVID-19 symptoms, isolate and take a second test - PCR test or a RAT. Then follow the appropriate test outcome for that subsequent test within these three scenarios. c. negative for COVID-19 and the person displays no COVID-19 symptoms complete a COVID-19 test every second day for a week, wear a mask outside for seven days, do not visit vulnerable settings (aged care, hospitals etc) advise your employer and Scouting that you are a close contact and work from home if possible. <p>A close contact must, for 7 days after the end of quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - wear a face mask indoors outside the home and outdoors when unable to remain physically distant from other persons; and - not enter and remain in a vulnerable and high-risk setting, unless requiring medical care or permitted to enter as an employee of the vulnerable and high-risk setting.
7.15.4.4.	<p>ILLNESS OF A MEMBER OF THE SCOUTING COMMUNITY</p> <p>Any Member who displays any symptoms that could be COVID-19 related, especially respiratory issues, shall not attend a Scout activity and the following steps should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As soon as practical undertake a COVID-19 test; - Inform the Formation Leader that a COVID-19 test has been taken; - Self-isolate until test results are known; - Inform the Formation Leader the results of the COVID-19 test; and, - Where a positive result is returned, complete the mandatory seven-day isolation period. <p>If positive COVID-19 test results, the Formation Leader shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform all parents/caregivers and Adult Members of the positive test. - Suspend face-to-face of Scouting and advise the District Commissioner; - Contact the Scouts Queensland Emergency Line by calling 07 3870 7000 and provide an initial incident report, details of all members who may have been in contact, and the details of the individual diagnosed; - Cooperate with Queensland Health regards any contact tracing; - Precautionary clean of any Scout buildings that the affected person may have been in over the past 7 days - refer Manager Facilities and Risk on 0417 835 622; - Post incident review and the F18; and, - Reinstate face-to-face Scouting following Scouts Queensland and/or Health Department clearance.

	All formal requests for information including contact tracing records etcetera, from the Queensland Health or any other Government Department are to be referred in the first instance to the General Manager.
7.15.4.5.	DEVELOPING SYMPTOMS AT A SCOUTING ACTIVITY
	<p>For any Member who develops symptoms during a Scouting activity that could be COVID-19 related, especially respiratory issues, the following steps should be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Isolate the effected person at that Scout activity and provide the affected person with a disposable medical mask. Persons assisting the affected person should wear gloves and a medical mask whilst providing assistance; - Inform parent/caregiver and request them to provide transport. Inform listed contact where the affected person is an adult; - Transport by parent/caregiver or in the case of an adult, self-drive to undertake a COVID test as soon as practical; - Precautionary clean the area and surrounding area where the affected person has been. If assistance is required, contact Manager Facilities and Risk on 0417 835 622; - Identify other persons who have been close to the affected person and inform parents/caregivers; Wording similar to the following is recommended: <i>As your young person attended the (den or event) on xx /yy/zz we suggest you monitor and if they display any symptoms that you arrange testing as per the Queensland Health Guidelines. Currently, we expect the unit program to continue next week as per normal. Once again Scouting encourages all members to get fully vaccinated. If you have any questions, please contact me directly. Group Leader.</i> - Contact the Scouts Queensland Emergency Line by calling 07 3870 7000 and provide an initial incident report, details of all Members who may have been in contact, and the details of the individual diagnosed; - Post incident review and completion of a F18. <p>While waiting to go home, Members should be managed with kindness and an awareness that some Members may have a heightened personal concern for their wellbeing during pandemic. The knowledge and understanding of Youth Members regarding risks should not be underestimated.</p>
7.15.4.6.	COMMUNICATIONS
	<p>Changes to this document will be communicated directly to all Adult Members by email by the Chief Commissioner through the Chief's Newsletter.</p> <p>Commissioners and Group Leaders have the responsibility to make sure that Leaders within their responsibility have read the relevant sections of this document, understand the requirements and put those requirements into operation.</p> <p>It is understood that operating within an environment where there is the threat of COVID-19 and where there are additional controls that are required to be complied with to limit the spread of the virus may cause stresses to some people. We all have a responsibility to look out for our fellow human beings as seek reassurance that they are coping with the COVID-19 pressures. If there is an issue, please contact your supervising Leader.</p>
7.15.5.	SPECIFIC COVID SAFE REQUIREMENTS
7.15.5.1.	INTRODUCTION
	<p>We need to be agile as a responsible community organisation in quickly implementing changes based on Queensland Government assessments of the daily identification of new COVID-19 cases and the contribution that community transmission makes to those rates.</p> <p>Public Health Directives carry the same weight as the law and Scouting's implied licence to operate could easily be revoked if we are seen to be not abiding by the rules.</p>

7.15.5.2.	GATHERING SIZE
	<p>There may be a government defined maximum number of participants at a gathering at various points in time. That number in Scouting terms includes Youth Members, Leaders, Youth Program Supporters, Adult Helpers, Youth Helpers and parents who may be participating in a Scouting activity. That number is shown above.</p> <p>Compliance within the maximum gathering size must be achieved and suitable ways to limit gathering size include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Segregation into smaller gatherings that meet in different locations; or - Segregation into a smaller gathering that is participating face-to-face and another gathering that is meeting on-line; or - Scheduling so that smaller gatherings meet at the same locations but at different times, being careful to avoid co-mingling at change-over times; or - Limiting gathering size in the case of campsites through the booking system.
7.15.5.3.	TRANSPORT
	Parents traditionally car-pool to Scouting activities away from the Scout den. The choice to car-pool should be by agreement between parents and in line with QBSI 10 part D4. Adult Members should advise parents to not transport any member with respiratory symptoms.
7.15.5.4.	CHECK IN QUEENSLAND APP
	<p>The use of the <i>Check In Queensland</i> QR code is optional where there are no vaccination requirements.</p> <p>Vaccination requirements still exist for visits to hospitals and aged care facilities.</p>
7.15.5.5.	INDOOR ACTIVITIES AND MEETINGS
	Density limits are no longer applicable.
7.15.5.6.	YOUTH SECTION MEETINGS
	<p>Physical distancing rules do not apply during Unit activities though physical distancing remains recommended.</p> <p>Parents of Youth Members are encouraged to participate in recognition of personal progression achievements, discussions with the Group Leader and Unit leaders whilst maintaining social distancing and limiting socialising associated with Unit activities.</p>
7.15.5.7.	ADULT MEMBER MEETINGS
	<p>Adult Members and/or the parents of Youth Members gather for inductions, training, communicating, idea sharing and planning purposes and this is an important part of Scouting.</p> <p>The technologies for on-line “meetings” are now readily available and can be useful alternatives to mitigate risks associated with bringing people together face-to-face whilst the risk of community transmission remains high.</p> <p>Limit associated unplanned social gatherings of adults.</p>
7.15.5.8.	SCOUT CAMPSITES, ACTIVITY CENTRES AND SCOUT VENUES OTHER THAN DENS
	<p>All venues must display a sign at the entrance that indicates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - any person displaying COVID-19 symptoms must not enter the building or site; - Scouts Qld has the right to refuse services; and, - Scouts Qld will insist that anyone with these symptoms must leave the premises immediately. <p>There are now no limits based on per square metres requirements for indoor or outdoor activities.</p>

	<p>Multiple camping groups may be at a campsite provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - co-mingling between different camping groups is managed; and - there is separation between adjacent camping groups.
7.15.5.9.	<p>OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each participant should use dedicated equipment including dedicated personal protective equipment for the session. That gear should be disinfected or washed after the session and before being used by anyone else. The sharing of equipment is to be limited and there can be no sharing of clothing. <p>Or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each participant shall clean their hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs before and after using equipment required for activities. This can include ropes for abseiling, paddles etc. Metal fittings used in attaching abseilers/climbers harnesses to the rope should be wiped over between use. <p>Identify trigger points for cancelling, postponing or modifying an activity and identify who has the responsibility to make that decision.</p> <p>Consider cancelling outdoor activities where there is the threat of inclement weather to avoid people, gathering under shelters by compromising social distancing rules.</p>
7.15.5.10.	<p>CAMPING</p> <p>There are now no density limits associated with camping but it is prudent that sleeping arrangements provide where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical distancing; and, - all Members assigned to the tent are from one Scout District. <p>Within bunk huts, it is prudent that sleeping arrangements provide where possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.5m separation; and, - all Members assigned to the bunk hut /room are from one Scout District. <p>Soap and water must be used to thoroughly wash hands following every visit to the toilet. Alcohol based sanitiser does not provide protection against gastroenteritis.</p>
7.15.5.11.	<p>FOOD PREPARATION</p> <p>Cooking areas should have a high level of hygiene, regular surface cleaning with soap-based cleaner and hot water before, during, and after use.</p> <p>Assigned cooks in shared cooking arrangements should be identified as low risk (i.e. no respiratory symptoms, committed to surface cleaning pre, during and post cooking, able to social distance in kitchen area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooks to wear food safe gloves when preparing and serving food - Only cooks to distribute food to members of the Unit/Patrol - no smorgasbords or sharing of serving utensils - Tea towels are not to be shared <p>Those assigned to cooking duties must wash hands with soap and use hand sanitiser before commencing and at completion of duties. Regular handwashing with soap is to be carried out throughout the preparation of the meal.</p> <p>Leaders must be very confident that strict food preparation hygiene will be adhered to on camps, particularly where there is no direct adult supervision.</p>
7.15.5.12.	<p>DEN HIRE - WITH EASING COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS</p> <p>Group Leaders and committees must carefully consider the risk and additional cleaning requirements which may be imposed by allowing external hire of their facilities.</p>

	<p>However, in addition to normal hire arrangements, external hires must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Be responsible for cleaning and sanitising the area of their use on completion of their activity; b. Provide immediate notice to Scouts Queensland should anyone attending our site as part of the hirer’s activities develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. <p>External hires must be held to the same standard at Scout Groups and meet all the requirements of QBSI 7.15.</p>
7.15.6.	COVID-19 HOTSPOT MANAGEMENT
7.15.6.1.	LOCATION
	All Queensland
	TIMEFRAME
	From 6:00pm AEST 4 March 2022 until the end of the declared public health emergency, unless it is revoked or replaced.
	REQUIREMENTS
	<p>Unless an exemption applies to them, a person must wear a face mask covering the person’s nose and mouth at all times when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the person is in healthcare settings, residential aged care, disability accommodation, prisons, public transport, airports and on planes or has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19. <p>Masks will still be recommended whenever you can’t social distance.</p>