

Dear Members,

In light of the increasing situation of COVID-19 in Western Australia, Scouts WA is giving a current statement to support and guide our members in the State.

The risk of transmission in Australia remains low; however, the situation is evolving. Western Australians should remain alert, but not be alarmed.

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is by practising good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette. This includes reminding members:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet
- Cover your cough and sneeze, dispose of tissues, and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- If people are unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people)
- Remind people not to attend if they are sick with respiratory symptoms
- Recommend people don't attend Scouting events or meetings if they have been overseas within 14 days to the countries listed on the Department of Health website
- Groups are reminded about the importance of good personal hygiene including hand washing with single use towels, not sharing cups and cutlery, making sure washing of cutlery and crockery is appropriate and observing personal space

We have set up a "quick-action team" and Scouts WA is monitoring the situation including levels of actions we may ask groups, formations and activity groups to undertake in the future. We are working with the Board and Program teams in regards to major events and gatherings, and will provide releases to members through Scouts@Info and social media.

We are following State and Federal guidelines and taking advice from professionals, and encourage all members to remain calm.

For our Scouting volunteers over the age of 65 or with multiple medical conditions or any form of immunocompromise, we ask that you carefully consider taking a break or adopting a higher vigilance in hand hygiene while attending Scout activities for the foreseeable future as they are the group at highest risk.

Please refer to the Department of Health website [https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A\\_E/Coronavirus](https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus)

Please also consider printing and displaying the attached hand washing posters: [How to wash and dry hands with soap and water - Department of Health](#), [Protect yourself and others - World Health Organization](#), [How to Hand Wash? - World Health Organization](#) and ensuring single use hand drying towels, recognising this may not be as sustainable or environmentally friendly but this issue calls for such measures.

Regards

Caitlin Arcus  
Acting Chief Commissioner  
Scouts WA