

COVID-19 Special Scouts@Info Edition 7

Dear Scouts WA members

Thank you all for your ongoing patience and passion for Scouting during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As I write, WA is well and truly into Stage 2 with regional restrictions relaxed and some social and commercial practises being allowed. It's vital that we in Scouts and as a whole community stay vigilant and recognise all the components of health and safety that apply to Scouting in WA (as we always have). The Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group will continue to review government announcements and legislation and advise members of changes and how it affects Scouting.

SCOUTING@HOME

Thank you and well done to all leaders and youth members who are providing and participating in the Scout program through Scouting@Home. Virtual pet nights, camps in the living room, new vegetable gardens and socially distanced care packages are all examples of wonderful program components continuing to boost young people's development, promote a sense of connection, build skills and resilience. Keep at it!

COVID-19 SAFETY PLANS

As we stated in the previous Special Scouts@Info COVID-19 edition (did you know all of these are on MyScout and the website?), now is the time to Be Prepared for return to Face-to-Face Scouting. A huge thanks to all of you for getting together COVID-19 Safety Plans, considering the COVID-19 Sports and Recreation guidelines and individual components of your facilities and activities.

Previously we requested that all plans be sent through. Those that have been received have been reviewed and commented on. However, as the legislation is now clear, plans are now not required to be submitted to the virtual.scouting@scoutswa.com.au inbox - unless you've been advised that your Local Government / Council requires it). As at 25th May 2020, some Local Government Authorities (LGA) require a COVID-19 Safety Plan to be submitted by the peak body for each hall. If your Group is in one of these LGA areas, you will be contacted by the Facilities Officer who will submit your Plan along with those of other Groups in the LGA area.

You are reminded, however, that ALL GROUPS MUST complete a COVID-19 Safety Plan for your hall or activity and be able to produce it on request of authorities (health inspectors or Police). The Plans are a guide for considering all aspects of returning to activities, and (as per other components of Risk Assessments and maintaining safety in Scouting), is the responsibility of the Group and leader in charge of an activity to ensure it's followed. They must be produced on request of Police or an authorised Health officer. Please remember that as circumstances change you must update your Plans.

You may find that section-specific items that will be addressed need to go in an appended document. The formal directive specifically excludes transport in vehicles from social distancing

requirements but sensible approaches to minimising exposure and maintaining good hygiene are still strongly encouraged.

SPLITTING OF UNITS

As we start to return to face to face Scouting, there are still restrictions on the number of people who can be in a building or group at a time. Currently the maximum number is 20 - but this excludes "STAFF". In the case of sports clubs, coaches are considered staff. Similarly, in the case of Scouting, **Leaders are considered STAFF and, therefore, do not need to be included in the 20 people maximum.** It's recommended that you try to avoid planning to split your Mob, Pack, Troop, Unit or Crew to allow for face to face meetings. As a section, having only half of your members meet in the week can start to disenfranchise your members. Think about the alternative activities that Patrols might undertake either online or in a smaller face to face setting. Patrols meeting face to face in smaller Groups with a COVID-19 Safety plan are a great way to start physically meeting again, along with Scouting@Home as discussed above.

RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS

Attached are these examples of COVID-19 Safety Plans, posters to go up around halls and two guidelines in regards to cleaning and returning to halls that have been empty for some time. It's vital that we realise and prepare for the fact that halls and taps being unused present different danger, and so recommend:

[COVID-19 Safety Plan Example Group Council meeting](#)

[COVID-19 Safety Plan prepare to return to activities](#)

[COVID-19 Safety Plan Sport and Recreation Group Bushwalk](#)

ONE-OFF CHECKLIST FOR RE-OPENING HALLS

1. Review document [Building recommissioning – water supply and water related services](#) and [COVID-19 environmental cleaning in non-healthcare settings \(home and workplace\)](#).
 2. All taps need to be run for 5 minutes prior to use of the hall for the first time to reduce the risk of contaminated water (there is a risk of disease from stagnant water in pipes).
 2. Check for spoiled food, rodent and insect infestations prior to use for the first time. A deep clean of the hall would be appropriate prior to starting up.
 3. Showers and change rooms MUST remain closed at community (i.e. non-accommodation) halls (except to facilitate use of the toilets for obvious reasons). This is important for any groups wishing to undertake water based or dirty activities as they won't be able to use their hall showers. Members must shower and change at home and not in a shared space.
 4. COVID-19 Safety plan be completed for each hall or facility used by a Group and the corresponding COVID-19 Safety Plan Poster should be completed and displayed at the entrance to your hall (including separate ones for each hall if you use more than one location for your group). A supplementary COVID-19 Safety Plans should be included in R1s completed for each different activity outside the primary Scout hall.
 5. Prepare and train leaders as appropriate - see training resources below.
 6. Ensure all processes for attendance are up to date to assist with contact tracing if required.
 7. Plan > Do > Review >
- Remember that it's important to review and update you plan if circumstances change or something

isn't working.

PREPARE

It's recommended that leaders complete hand hygiene and/or infection control training. The WA Health Department recommends community groups refer to the Australian Government Infection Control module of the COVID-19 training package for health care workers. The site is free to register and only takes around 15 minutes to complete the training. The registration page can be found by clicking [here](#).

There is an [Infection Control Training Step by Step Guide](#) attached for your information to assist with navigating the page training portal.

If you have already completed other relevant training (such as the Australian Hotels Association training) there is limited benefit in completing this one in addition.

Department of Health resources around good hygiene and COVID-19 can be found [here](#) (with some resources attached below):

[Keep your distance](#), [Simple steps to help stop the spread](#), [How to Handrub?](#), [How to Handwash?](#), and [Protect yourself and others](#)

In the interests of supporting good public health measures, the Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group STRONGLY ENCOURAGES members download and use the CovidSafe app to assist health authorities with contact tracing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Check out the Scouts WA website and Facebook page for program ideas and examples, COVID-19 Scouts@Info releases and photos. Questions can be sent to your Group Leader, DC or RCC, or to the virtual.scouting@scoutswa.com.au inbox if your "line manager" isn't able to assist.

Thank you

Caitlin Arcus
Acting Chief Commissioner
Scouts WA



MANAGING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on people's mental health and well-being is very important with preliminary data showing large affects on people's mental health, especially young people. All Leaders, Venturers and Rovers are encouraged to review the information and video that can be found [here](#).



COVID-19 CONSUMER PROTECTION INFORMATION: COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Consumer Protection encourages the WA community to read this helpful information for the latest and we ask you to help us spread the word through your networks and via your existing communication channels

How can you help?

Share these links below:

- [COVID-19 Coronavirus Consumer Protection Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Consumer Protection's residential tenancies COVID-19 responses](#)
- [Residential Rent Relief Grant Scheme application page](#)
- [Consumer Protection's commercial tenancies COVID-19 responses](#)
- [Video for commercial tenants and landlords](#)



MINISTER IS POSITIVE ABOUT WA'S COVID-19 STRATEGIES SCOUTS WA RECYCLING HAS A LAUNCH DATE

It's official! The Minister has just announced the new launch date for Containers for Change is 1 October 2020.

We hope you are as excited as we are and ready to mobilise over the next 18 weeks as circumstances/restrictions permit.

The Minister's media release announcing the scheme's new launch date can be found [here](#).