

COVID-19 Special Scouts@Info Edition 24

Dear Members,

Since the last Scouts WA COVID-19 update in late December, there have been several announcements and changes to the Public Health Orders by the State Government. The Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group has been following and discussing the various announcements.

The COVID-19 Action Group has reviewed the current mandates and can advise that face to face scouting across the State can continue, as can camping and sleepover type activities, however it is important that the public health orders are followed.

Full details of the restrictions can be found at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

Masks are required in the Perth, Peel and South West Regions in the following settings:

- at all public indoor settings (this includes Scout Halls and other meeting type places)
- in all vehicles unless the person is travelling alone or with members of the same household

There are exemptions from wearing a face mask (please see wa.gov.au for details), including for medical reasons and primary school aged children or younger.

The vaccination policy of Scouts Australia is for individuals to follow the health guidance provided by governments (Federal/State and or Territory), including any Public Health Orders, and to seek medical advice as to their own particular circumstance to make an informed decision in relation to vaccination. It is not the policy of Scouts Australia to exclude unvaccinated members from membership.

A copy of the Scouts Australia vaccination policy can be found [here](#).

At present proof of vaccination for people 16 years and older will be required for certain large events. While awaiting the release of the exact directions, the COVID-19 Action Group have advised that it is likely that Scout Halls will be included in the list of places where proof of vaccination is required.

Group Leaders and Group Council should start to plan a system to manage proof of vaccination for their members. Please note that for privacy reasons copies of vaccinations certificates should not be retained, please only sight copies of certificates.

Every member of Scouts WA is now eligible to be vaccinated and the COVID-19 Action Group and myself encourage all members to consult your GP and get your vaccinations.

Vulnerable, or immunocompromised, Leaders and Members should consult their GP or a health professional about their individual circumstances and participation in Scouting activities.

A reminder to all Groups and members that it is a requirement that everyone who enters the hall or attends the meeting night, including parents who enter the foyer area when dropping off their children, must either scan in using the SafeWA app, the ServiceWA app or complete the manual contact register which should be kept for 28 days.

Please note that Scouts WA requires all youth members to be recorded as having attended no matter their age. Group Leaders should take appropriate steps to ensure this is completed. The use of the SafeWA app and/or contact registers will be a requirement moving forward, even after the lifting of the current restrictions.

All Groups should ensure that their COVID Safety Plans are reviewed and updated. For all activities:

- Encourage hand sanitation/cleaning on arrival.
- Remind everyone (parents and youth members) that no one should attend when sick.
- 1.5m physical distance recommendation remains, including in lining up, activities, opening/closing.
- Clean high touch areas on a regular basis.
- COVID-19 Action Plan should be displayed.

Any changes to restrictions will be reviewed by the Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group and updates provided as indicated.

Group Leaders and Sections Leaders should contact their District Commissioner or Regional Chief Commissioner with any questions.

Ayden Mackenzie
Chief Commissioner
Scouts WA