

COVID-19 Special Scouts@Info Edition 26

Hello Members,

Further to my email on the 31st of January 2022, concerning Proof of Vaccination requirements, we have today received advice from the Department of Health.

The Department considers Scouting to be a 'club' and as such normal Scouting activities run at our halls do not currently require Proof of Vaccination.

Further details and frequently asked questions about 'Proof of Vaccinations' can be found at: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/covid-19-coronavirus-proof-of-vaccination-frequently-asked-questions>

Per the Government's FAQs, Groups which regularly meet for Scouting in an 'indoor sporting centre' would not generally need to show a proof of vaccination, however they should discuss this with venue managers if unsure.

Scout Halls which are hired out to other community Groups for fitness or dance classes are only subject to Proof of Vaccination requirements during that class.

However, some exceptions to Proof of Vaccinations may apply:

- Scout meetings which occur in a venue listed in the Directions (such as a museum or the Zoo) will require members 16 years and over to present proof of vaccination to the staff of the centre.
- Large events with over 500 people.

The Government recently announced that Schools would postpone (or cancel) camps and other large gatherings. The Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group discussed this change and do not believe there is a need to cancel Scout Camps. This is based on the current health advice and is subject to change.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 viruses, we encourage all groups to:

- Instruct members **not** to attend when they are sick, regardless of whether or not they have tested positive to COVID-19, or if they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19
- Hold activities in well-ventilated areas, especially outside, wherever possible
- Encourage hand hygiene through the use of hand sanitiser or handwashing on arrival
- Maintain physical distancing between members of at least 1.5 metres, including during opening/closing, activities and lining up
- Encourage vaccination for all members
- Clean high-touch areas on a regular basis

Mask wearing requirements are in effect across Perth and Peel (including Rottnest Island), the South West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions. **This means that mask must be worn indoors, and outdoors where social distancing is not possible. This is currently for high school aged students and above unless they carry evidence of their approved medical exemption.**

The display of COVID-19 action plans, and the use of the SafeWA and ServiceWA contact registration requirements remain important as well.

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