

Hello members,

As you may be aware, all areas of Western Australia are now affected by Level 2 Public Health and Social Measures aimed to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus in WA.

Full details of the measures can be found at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-what-you-can-and-cant-do> and more specifically at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/announcements/level-2-public-health-measures-introduced-state-wide-thursday-3-march>

**Some of these have changed since first published, so please read the following information carefully.**

Effective since 12.01 am Thursday 3 March 2022, these have the following effects on Scout activities:

- Masks must be worn indoors by all children aged 8 and over (enrolled in year 3 at school or above), as well as by all high school aged children and above, covered by the existing requirements, unless they are exempt for one of the published reasons and have evidence.
- Continued density limits, with a 2 square metre per person limit inside venues capped at 150 people, including community, recreation, or youth centre facilities, including all Scout halls, Adventure Centres, and in facilities used for Scout activities, including camping in tents.
- Camping style activities, including at Scouts WA Adventure Centres, can continue as long as the 2 square metre rule can adhered to within the facilities. If using dorm style accommodation please speak to the venue/facility staff to check maximum numbers.
- Indoor Events are subject to density limits of 2 square metres per person – please check with the venue/facility what the limit is, as this will vary.
- Hospitality venues (including dining halls at Adventure Centres) are limited to 150 people in one area (provided the 2 square metre rule is maintained).
- Public outdoor events limited to 500 people

Private gathering restrictions (limited to 50 people) – not applicable to Scouts, as we are an organisation, and deemed Public. The Level 2 directions place a cap of 50 people on private gatherings. The COVID-19 Action Group has consulted the WA Government and is satisfied that Scout group activities are not considered private gatherings. Other limits such as venue or density limits still apply.

**In summary, the Scouts WA COVID-19 Action Group encourage Scouting activities including group programs, events and camping to continue, due to the vast benefits for members and the broader community.**

**Unless:**

- **The WA Government or Health advice changes – directing community, recreation, camping activities to be cancelled/postponed.**
- **Any member or their family are deemed at high risk from COVID-19, due to their personal circumstances. In which case, we strongly encourage them to make their own informed choice regarding the safety of attending Scouts and all other community activities, based on advice from their health professional/s.**

COVID-19 Safety Plans

Group Leaders' attention is drawn to the requirement to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan for their meeting area.

The new templates for these located at <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/covid-19-coronavirus-covid-safety-plans-and-guidelines>

Vaccination is not mandatory for participation in Scouting activities, except as required by public health directions.

In line with the World Organisation of the Scout Movement's message, and the requirements of the WA Government COVID Safety Plans, Scouts WA encourages everyone eligible to get vaccinated.

A reminder for hygiene and safety on all activities:

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

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

We encourage you to stay up to date with Government directions, as they are changing frequently via <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

If a Scout activity or hall is identified as a potential exposure site, please contact the Branch administration office on 6240 7700 within office hours ASAP, or email [reception@scoutswa.com.au](mailto:reception@scoutswa.com.au) if after hours.

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

Ayden Mackenzie  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts WA