

## **COVID-19 Guidelines – January 10, 2022**

COVID-19 continues to be a concern, especially with the increasing number of children infected with the Omicron variants. We strongly encourage all Girl Scout members (both girl and adult), as they are able, to be fully vaccinated. This will provide the greatest degree of protection and allow the most flexibility in planning and enjoying Girl Scout activities.

Please continue to check the GSCWM website ([www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org)) for the most current COVID-19 updates and don't hesitate to contact us at [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org) if you have questions.

*GUIDELINES: These guidelines are based on information from a number of sources including CDC recommendations, Commonwealth of MA, local boards of health, and GSUSA resources.*

- Troop leaders notified that a troop member tested positive for COVID-19 after attending a meeting or activity must cancel indoor meetings/activities for ten days after the gathering was held, out of an abundance of caution and according to local board of health recommendations. With weekly meetings, this means you will likely miss one in-person meeting.
  - E-mail [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org) and provide: Your name, troop number, date notified of the positive test, names of those in attendance, type of gathering (e.g. troop meeting), and the meeting/activity location.
  - GSCWM will notify parents of girls in attendance.

- **Returning to Girl Scout activities (including campouts) after a Positive Test**
  - The infected individual may participate when the following have been met:
    - ✓ No fever for at least 24 hours - without the use of fever reducing medication AND
    - ✓ Respiratory symptoms have improved AND
    - ✓ At least five (5) days have passed since symptoms first appeared or since the positive test result was received, if the individual does not have symptoms (is asymptomatic)
  - Symptomatic individuals testing negative for COVID-19 may return to Girl Scout activities when:
    - ✓ The alternative diagnosis is resolved (e.g. strep throat) AND
    - ✓ Symptoms have improved AND
    - ✓ They have no fever for at least 24 hours - without the use of fever reducing medication
- Every participant in a Girl Scout meeting or activity must do a quick health check before they leave home and not attend if they are showing any signs of illness. Here is a quick [Screening Form](#) with questions to guide you (this is a tool, not a requirement).
- Transportation To and From Activities
  - Public transportation should be avoided when possible.
  - It is imperative to take all safety precautions when girls travel in motor vehicles. Since the risk of COVID-19 transmission is high when people are in close proximity and in a closed-in area for more than ten minutes, girls from different households are discouraged from carpooling.
  - Parents must be notified ahead of time if girls will be in a car together.
  - Each unvaccinated person must complete and submit the [Screening Form](#), which the troop leader keeps for three months or until the end of the program year. After that time, the forms must be shredded or otherwise destroyed.
  - **All** occupants, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, must wear a mask.
  - Space girls out as much as possible to avoid crowding.
  - Keep car windows at least partially open to circulate fresh air.

- Masks must be worn **at all times when indoors** by those who are vaccinated **and** those who are not vaccinated, except when eating or drinking. Girls and adults who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear masks and maintain social distancing of at least three-feet when outdoors. At their discretion, troop leaders may require masks to be worn by all.
  - Masks must be worn by all when singing.
- All participants must wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Wash when they arrive and prior to leaving, before eating, after using the restroom, and after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - Hand sanitizer needs to be available for all and it is preferable for each person to bring and use their own. Hand sanitizer (must be at least 60% alcohol and must NOT contain methanol) can be used, IF soap and water is not available.
- Disinfectant wipes or spray with paper towels need to be available and used to wipe down high-touch areas (door handles, chairs, tables, etc.) before and after use.
  - Shared supplies and equipment should be wiped after group use with sanitizing wipes. Personal items (hair ties, brushes, towels, etc.) and drink containers must not be shared.
- No shared cooking or serving utensils for food are allowed (no self-serve buffets/pot lucks). Girls should bring their own lunch or snack from home (no sharing); or food can be served by adults who are masked and gloved; or pre-packaged food/snacks can be provided.
- GSCWM Leadership Centers in Holyoke and Worcester are open to the general public. We encourage visitors to the Girl Scout stores to make an appointment or place orders for curbside pickup. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals must wear masks in Girl Scout buildings.
  - Reservations can be made for troop meetings and activities.
  - Contact us at [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org), 413-584-2602 or 508-365-0115.
- Troops taking day trips are subject to the restrictions placed on the particular venue they're visiting (theaters, museums, skating rinks, etc.).
- Girl Scout day and overnight camp activities are subject to the MA requirements for outdoor recreational programs.
  - Contact [info@gscwm.org](mailto:info@gscwm.org) for assistance in reserving GSCWM camp sites and information about camp requirements.