



Scout Unit guide to resume in-person meetings

Coronavirus protocol and policy guide

Mid-Iowa Council

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Unit guide to resume in-person meetings

Covid-19 Pandemic

This guide is intended to be used to help instruct Scout leaders and families in the best practices to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and resume in-person Scout meetings. It is not meant to anticipate every eventuality; you will have to use your best judgement whether to start in person Scout meetings.

The information in this guide is taken directly from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

Please print and distribute or share any portion, or the complete guide, with other volunteers, parents, and Scouts.



“A Scout is never taken by surprise; he knows exactly what to do when anything unexpected happens.”

Baden Powell

***Disclaimer**

The guidelines of the CDC and WHO are no guarantee that you will not contract Covid-19. Please follow Federal, State and Council guidelines. Please use your best judgment whether to resume in-person meetings if allowed.

Protect yourself and others!



Clean your hands

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not available use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol).
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Hands should be cleaned at the start and end of every activity.



Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Immediately wash your hands



Wearing a Facemask

- **If you are sick:** first stay home. Or if you must go out wear a facemask when you around other people.
- **If you are not sick:** It is still a good idea to wear a facemask especially if you are caring for someone who is sick.

Enhanced Cleaning

It's important to disinfect your home or meeting area regularly to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Here are the basics you need to know about disinfecting and why it's necessary for keeping your family safe.

- Cleaning removes dust, debris, and dirt from a surface by scrubbing, washing and rinsing.
- Sanitizing reduces the bacteria identified on a product's label, on surfaces and in laundry.
- Disinfecting destroys or inactivates both the bacteria and viruses identified on a product's label (like influenza and rhinovirus) on hard, nonporous surfaces.

Disinfecting hard, nonporous surfaces is one of the most reliable ways to help lower the risk of spreading germs from surfaces by touch.

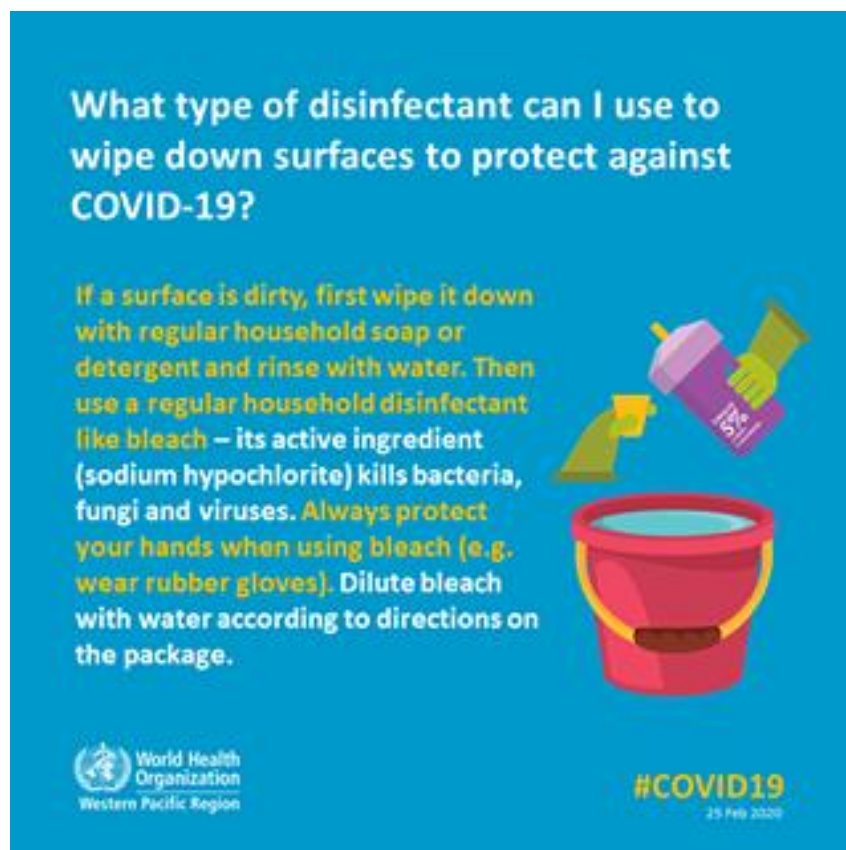
Why Disinfection Is Important.

Remember that you should disinfect – **not sanitize** – because disinfectants are the only products approved by the EPA to kill viruses on hard surfaces. The main difference is that EPA-approved sanitizers only have claims for bacteria, while disinfectants have claims against both bacteria and viruses.

When to Disinfect.

While in quarantine, it's important to disinfect the hard, nonporous surfaces at least 3 times per day. If someone in your household has COVID-19 or shows symptoms, disinfect the high-touch surfaces in the areas they enter as frequently as possible.

Select a Disinfectant That Can Be Effectively Used Against COVID-19.



What type of disinfectant can I use to wipe down surfaces to protect against COVID-19?

If a surface is dirty, first wipe it down with regular household soap or detergent and rinse with water. Then use a regular household disinfectant like bleach – its active ingredient (sodium hypochlorite) kills bacteria, fungi and viruses. Always protect your hands when using bleach (e.g. wear rubber gloves). Dilute bleach with water according to directions on the package.

World Health Organization
Western Pacific Region

#COVID19
25 Feb 2020

To make sure your product is an EPA-approved disinfectant, look on the label for an EPA registration number on the back panel. You can confirm a product can be used against COVID-19 by visiting [the EPA's site](#) or [full list of Clorox® products that are effective against COVID-19](#).

Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your symptoms can include the following:

Fever



If you have COVID-19, you may have mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.

Symptoms can appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Cough



Look for **emergency warning signs*** for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, **seek emergency medical care immediately**

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

Shortness of breath



* This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



UNIT GUIDELINES TO RESUME IN PERSON MEETINGS

BEFORE THE MEETING

- Contact the meeting location to ensure access.
- Follow any guidelines outlined by meeting location.
- No in-person meeting or event shall be mandatory for Scouts and families who may feel uncomfortable attending because of the pandemic.
- Drop-offs and pick-ups will be done at the door. Please call or text when you are 5-10 minutes away so we can be ready.
- Ask parents/guardians to take their child's temperature before arriving or upon arriving. Anyone with a temperature over 99.9 will not be allowed to attend the meeting or activity.
- Notify leaders if your child or anyone in your household has been exposed to anyone who developed symptoms related to the virus.
- Anyone with an illness will not be allowed to attend the meetings.

DURING THE MEETING

- All hands will be washed/sanitized as soon as the Scouts arrive at the meeting
- Please inform your leader if anyone in your household become ill.
- Where feasible, adjust activities to limit sharing of items.
- If possible, maintain a distance of 6 feet from each person
- Use the Scout sign or salute as a way of greeting rather than handshakes and high-fives.
- **Two registered adult leaders 21 years of age or over are required at all Scouting activities, including meetings. There must be a registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over in every unit serving females. A registered female adult leader 21 years of age or over must be present for any activity involving female youth.**
- Postpone any food demos or cooking classes and don't offer food at your meetings
- Scouts should have their handbook and limit personal items from being brought to the meeting.

AFTER THE MEETING

- Pick-ups will be done at the door. Please call or text when you are 5-10 minutes away so we can be ready.
- Communicate any advancements or electives earned during the meeting or activity.
- Review next meeting plan and communicate date, time, location.
- Clean and disinfect areas used during the meeting or activity.
- Check Council website and facebook page for updates on Covid-19 and any rescheduled or canceled events.

Fundraising activities:

May be held if those activities are conducted within guidelines outlined by your state and local health department and other local officials and under the direction of your local BSA council and chartered organization. This applies to youth and adults. If fundraising activities can be facilitated using digital methods while still adhering to applicable rules, then those activities may continue.

Camping Guidelines:

Camping should only take place in accordance with guidelines outlined by your state and local health department and other local officials, as well as under the direction of your local BSA council and chartered organization. There is no formal national policy on social distancing in tents, just as there is no prohibition on tenting alone if logistics can accommodate that request. As always, all BSA youth protection policies must be followed.

- Food on campouts
 - Have Scouts bring their own meals if feasible.
 - Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes).
 - If food is offered at any event, have pre-packaged boxes or bags for each attendee instead of a buffet or family-style meal. Avoid sharing food and utensils.
- Transportation to campout
 - If possible, have each family arrive separately, no carpooling.
 - Stagger arrival and drop-off times put in place other protocols to limit contact between arriving families as much as possible.

Youth Protection Reminder

It's critical that we all continue to keep youth protection top-of-mind whether our Scouting activities are taking place in person or through a digital platform. Of note, remember that BSA prohibits any one-on-one interaction between an adult leader and a Scout – in person, online, through a web conference, over the phone, via text, or in any other form.

Detailed youth protection information: <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection>.

To ensure you are following safety standards for all Scouting activities, please reference the [Guide to Safe Scouting](#).



Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. As a result, federal, state, and local governments and federal and state health agencies recommend social distancing and have, in many locations, prohibited the congregation of groups of people.

The Boy Scouts of America, Mid-Iowa Council (the Council) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19; however, the Council cannot guarantee that you or your child(ren) will not become infected with COVID-19. Further, attending meetings could increase your risk and your child(ren)'s risk of contracting COVID-19.

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that my child(ren) and I may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by attending in person meetings and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. I understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at in person meetings may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, Council employees, volunteers, and program participants and their families.

I voluntarily agree to assume all of the foregoing risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury to my child(ren) or myself (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that I or my child(ren) may experience or incur in connection with my child(ren)'s attendance at in person meetings or participation in Council or Unit level programming ("Claims").

On my behalf, and on behalf of my children, I hereby release, covenant not to sue, discharge, and hold harmless the Council, its employees, volunteers, and representatives, of and from the Claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating there to. I understand and agree that this release includes any Claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Council, its employees, volunteers, and representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Name of Scout(s)