

COVID-19 Guidance

Edition date: 8/1/2021

This guidance supersedes 2/10/2021 COVID-19 guidance

As we embark upon our second school year in the COVID era, GSNI-M recognizes we've all been equipped to adapt and protect ourselves during the pandemic. Dealing with COVID has become more of a way of life. We also recognize that, at the moment, school and county guidelines vary widely in our communities. Rather than having a host of separate guidelines, we ask that you continue to monitor local and federal guidelines and the other resources indicated below such as the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). GSNI-M may, but is not obligated to, modify this guidance, in its sole discretion.

Masks. Please follow all local guidelines regarding masks. Masks are strongly encouraged at this time, but are not required unless local guidance, event locations, or meeting places ask people to wear them.

Troop Meetings. Troops may now meet inside or outside, in any group size, as their local or state jurisdiction permits.

Troop Travel. Troops may travel, following all local and state guidelines. Please complete appropriate GSNI-M training related to field trips and complete all required paperwork, such as the Extended Trip Form, when required.

If Someone Gets COVID. Please be courteous and let others who were around that person know they may have been exposed. Follow all current CDC guidelines for quarantine if there was close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. If you would like GSNI-M to help you notify parents or others about a COVID exposure, we are happy to do so. Contact us at frontdesk@gsnim.org or 800-283-4812, and then press 2.

Remember: All health information is private/confidential to be shared only on a need to know basis. There are laws and regulations governing sharing of health data.

Further Guidance:

Pre-screening and Symptoms Check. Prior to in-person troop meetings and activities, all participants should *self-pre-screen* to ensure they are healthy and that they have not experienced symptoms that are associated with COVID-19 in the previous 72 hours; that they have not knowingly been in contact with someone that has exhibited symptoms or has been confirmed positive with COVID-19; and that they have not been to high risk geographical regions particularly those regions that require a quarantine period.

A [Pre-Screening Questionnaire](#) is also available to distribute to your families. The purpose of this pre-screen questionnaire is to implement and demonstrate this important safety step. If an attendee answers a question "YES" that would indicate a likelihood or a known possibility that they could be a carrier of the virus, they should not attend the gathering. The goal is to keep the meeting safe from contagion and do the best to ensure our girls are educated and healthy, not to make it unnecessarily difficult or uncomfortable for girls to gather safely.

First Aid Supplies. Troop first aid supplies should include COVID-19 prevention items including hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol), tissues, disposable facemasks, and disinfectants. Trash baskets or bags should be supplied for meeting and activity spaces, if not already available. Disposable or no-contact thermometers may be added to supplies if available and not cost-prohibitive.

First Aid / CPR Training. Keep skills up to date for any emergency. Watch the GSNM website for upcoming trainings.

Disinfectants and Disinfecting. [Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces](#) and objects that are frequently touched (i.e., table tops, markers, scissors, etc.). Use a household cleaner, or see the [EPA's list of effective cleaners](#) approved for use against COVID-19. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

Food, Dining and Snacks. Be careful when handling and serving food and have girls be careful with each other when eating. Safety recommendations for food, dining and snacks include:

- Encourage girls to bring their own foods to eat (bag lunch or dinner)
- Encourage girls not to share their food after having touched it, such as a bag of chips.
- Individually wrapped items are recommended.
- If providing snacks, especially if unwrapped, have one person, wearing gloves, hand out items to each person, such as with cupcakes or cookies.
- Use a serving spoon or scoop rather than reaching into a bag or bowl of snacks.
- Use a buffet line only if staffed with a safely protected server with mask and gloves.
- Avoid "serve yourself" buffets.
- If serving family style, have one person, wearing clean gloves, serve everyone on clean plates
- Use disposable plates, forks, napkins, etc. when possible.
- Encourage girls to bring foods they can easily cook themselves (a prepacked foil pack) or hotdog for outdoor cooking.
- Ensure everyone handling food, those serving, girls, adults, wash hands (even if they will be wearing gloves) prior to any food prep or meals, following CDC handwashing guidelines.
- If sharing outdoor cooking utensils (roasting forks), they should be washed and sanitized between each use or bring enough utensils so that each person gets their own.

Please Note: These guidelines may change at any time, as local statistics and practices related to COVID-19 change. It is important you stay vigilant and pay attention to what is happening in your area and in areas in which you are planning to travel. Masks, social distancing, and extra hygiene practices are definitely encouraged at this time. If you have any questions about these guidelines, contact us at 800-283-4812, ext. 2, or send an e-mail to frontdesk@gsnim.org.