**Restart Scouting Checklist**

As always, the safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees and communities is our top priority. This checklist outlines several minimum guiding protocols that adult leaders/volunteers must consider while working with local and state health departments, local councils, chartered organizations and Scouting families on when and how to resume meetings, service projects, camping and all other official Scouting activities.

*If it is not practical to meet these minimal protocols, do not restart in-person activities.*

**SAFE ≠ Risk-Free**

As the response to the pandemic shifts to a state-focused, phased approach, the Boy Scouts of America advises local councils to consult with their local and state health departments, as well as local chartered partners, to implement appropriate protocols to help keep our members, volunteers and employees safe.

Precautions and mitigation strategies are important, but they cannot eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness when in-person activities resume.

People with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but they can spread the virus. Some people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. The fact is that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into program activities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. If you are in this group, please ensure you have approval from your health care provider prior to resuming in-person Scouting activities.

Every member, volunteer and family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before attending in-person activities.

*We hope this information will be helpful as you make that choice.*

For updates, please monitor https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus

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**S = Supervision**

- Understand local and state guidance on preventing COVID-19 exposure.
- Engage your chartered organization and local council on necessary adjustments.
- Conduct the “before you gather” protocols.

**A = Assessment**

- Identify participants who fall under the CDC’s group of higher-risk individuals. Notify all participants about the risks of participating since COVID-19 exposure cannot be eliminated.
- Verify that the planned activity, gathering or group sizes are not prohibited by local or state orders.

**F = Fitness and Skill**

- Review Annual Health and Medical Records and consider using a pre-event screening for all participants.

**E = Equipment and Environment**

- Verify that handwashing, hygiene and cleaning supplies are available and used properly.
- Monitor social distancing, interactions and sharing of equipment and food among participants.
- Monitor participants for changing health conditions.
- Use the “as you gather” protocols.
Before you gather:

- **Consult** your council and chartered organization to understand community standards and protocols in place.
- **Communicate** to all parents and youth that the Boy Scouts of America recommends that no one in the higher-risk category take part in person. Continue to engage virtually.
- **Communicate** that anyone who feels sick must stay home. If you become sick or develop symptoms, isolate yourself then go home and seek care.
- **Educate and train** all participants on appropriate social distancing, cleaning and disinfecting, hand hygiene and respiratory (cough or sneeze) etiquette before meeting for the first time. Periodically reinforce the behaviors as needed.
- **Before attending**, upon arrival and at least daily for longer events, all participants should be screened for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or having a temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19

- **As appropriate**, participants should have face coverings available to wear when gathering or when in public areas or venues. Several coverings per person may be needed.
- **Communicate** that those who take part in person should avoid contact with higher-risk individuals for 14 days after the event.

As you gather:

- **Minimize group sizes.** Small groups of participants who stay together all day every day, remain 6 feet apart and do not share objects are at the lowest risk. Think of a den or patrol that does not mix or gather with other dens or patrols, with supervision that stays with the small group. Scouting’s Barriers to Abuse always apply.
- **Stay local** to your geographic area and groups for unit activities. If you must travel, limit mixing with others along the way.
- **Minimize mixing** with parents or siblings unless they are part of the unit activity. For example, the same parent picks up and drops off youth, and stays in the car. No guests or visitors who have not been through the pre-gathering protocols and screening should take part.
- **Have hand sanitizer**, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available for use at meetings, activities and campouts.
- **Minimize the use** of common areas and shared tools. If unavoidable, they should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- **Develop dining protocols** (including but not limited to):
  - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
  - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups and plates.
  - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- **Develop tenting protocols** for the group:
  - Minimize use of fans or devices that stir the air.
  - Campers should sleep head-to-toe in bunks or cots spaced as far apart as possible.
  - Individual tents, hammocks and bivys may be considered.
- **During program activities**:
  - Equipment that must be shared should be disinfected before and after each use.
  - Where possible, assign activity-related protective equipment for the duration of an event to a single individual (life jacket, gloves, harness).
  - Effective handwashing before and after each program area use.
- **In case of an injury or illness**, promptly report the incident, including COVID-19 exposures. Utilize Incident Reporting Resources, including COVID-19 instructions.

When you get home:

- **Avoid contact** with higher-risk individuals for 14 days.
- **Monitor** for any signs of illness for 14 days, and
- **Communicate** with your unit leadership should you develop symptoms.
The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all individuals participating in youth clubs, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, TOP Teens (of TOP Ladies of Distinction), FFA, and Girls Inc., in Texas. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

Health protocols for individuals:

- Individuals should avoid being in a group larger than 10 individuals. Within these groups, individuals should, to the extent possible, minimize in-person contact with others not in the individual’s household. Minimizing in-person contact includes maintaining 6 feet of separation from individuals. When maintaining 6 feet of separation is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a face covering or mask, washing or sanitizing hand frequently, and avoiding sharing utensils or other common objects.

- Self-screen before going into the youth club meeting for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Chills
  - Repeated shaking with chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Loss of taste or smell
  - Diarrhea
  - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a business and after any interaction with employees, volunteers, contractors, participants, or items in the facility.

- Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) when entering the facility, or when within 6 feet of another person who is not a member of the individual’s household. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

- Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. To the extent possible, avoid being within 6 feet with individuals aged 65 and older. Individuals aged 65 and older should stay at home as much as possible.

- Carry hand sanitizer, and use it regularly while at the youth club meeting, especially after contact with individuals outside the household.
Youth Clubs, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, TOP Teens (of TOP Ladies of Distinction), FFA, and Girls Inc., may hold meetings. Meetings held indoors should not exceed 50% of the venue’s occupancy limit.

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all youth clubs choosing to hold meetings in Texas, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, TOP Teens (of TOP Ladies of Distinction), FFA, and Girls Inc.. Youth clubs may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, volunteers, contractors, and participants. It is advisable to meet in the largest facility available.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk.

Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Youth clubs should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Youth clubs should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and participants.

Health protocols for your employees, volunteers, and contractors:

- Individuals should avoid being in a group larger than 10 individuals. Within these groups, individuals should, to the extent possible, minimize in-person contact with others not in the individual’s household. Minimizing in-person contact includes maintaining 6 feet of separation from individuals. When maintaining 6 feet of separation is not feasible, other methods should be utilized to slow the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a face covering or mask, washing or sanitizing hand frequently, and avoiding sharing utensils or other common objects.

- Train all employees, volunteers, and contractors on appropriate cleaning and disinfection, hand hygiene, and respiratory etiquette.

- Screen employees, volunteers, and contractors before coming into the youth club:
  - Send home any employee, volunteers, or contractor who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19

- Do not allow employees, volunteers, or contractors with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to the youth club facility until:
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- In the case of an employee, volunteer, or contractor who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared; or
- In the case of an employee, volunteer, or contractor who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the employee, volunteer, or contractor has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

☐ Do not allow an employee, volunteer, or contractor with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to the youth club facility until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for healthcare workers and critical infrastructure workers).

☐ Have employees, volunteers, and contractors wash or sanitize their hands upon entering the youth club facility.

☐ Have employees, volunteers, and contractors maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.

☐ If a youth club provides a meal for employees, volunteers, contractors, and/or participants, youth clubs are recommended to have the meal individually packed for each individual.

☐ Consistent with the actions taken by many employers across the state, consider having all employees, volunteers, and contractors wear cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth). If available, employees, volunteers, and contractors should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks.

Health protocols for your facilities:

☐ If 6 feet of separation is not available between employees, volunteers, contractors, and/or participants inside the facility, consider the use of engineering controls, such as dividers between individuals, to minimize the chances of transmission of COVID-19

☐ Regularly and frequently clean and disinfect any regularly touched surfaces, such as doorknobs, tables, chairs, and restrooms.

☐ Disinfect any items that come into contact with individuals.

☐ Make hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, soap and water, or similar disinfectant readily available to employees, volunteers, contractors, and participants.

☐ Consider placing readily visible signage at the youth club facility to remind everyone of best hygiene practices.

☐ Consider having an individual wholly or partially dedicated to ensuring the health protocols adopted by the youth club are being successfully implemented and followed.