

# Guidelines for Drafting Programs and Amending Procedures for COVID-19

## Purpose and Scope

Widespread COVID-19 and concern for the possibilities of outbreaks will require significant changes to operations in program areas for Scout activities. Planning for these scenarios will allow review to assess risk and needs to operate safely and adjust offerings as the situation continues to evolve. This document serves as a starting point for developing plans by program area specialists and unit leaders.

## Areas of Focus

There are at a minimum six focus areas from the CDC and executive orders issued by the Governor of the State of Georgia that should be addressed in your plan. You should consider impact before, during, and after the activities. These focus areas include the following:

1. Limiting group sizes (current limit 50) – consider the number of instructors needed to offer the activity and include them as well as Scouters in your counts. What spaces do you plan to use and are they adequately separated?
2. Wearing masks (primarily to reduce transmission by infected but asymptomatic individuals) – Will wearing masks harm communication or otherwise interfere with offering the activity? (e.g., range officers)
3. Hand hygiene – can hand hygiene be offered before and after the activity? Does hand hygiene need to be provided during the activity? Does method of hand hygiene impact safety (e.g., hand sanitizer around fires)
4. Cleaning and disinfecting – does the activity have facilities, equipment, and materials that should be cleaned between users? (e.g., knives used for woodcarving) Is there risk from using specific cleaning products (e.g., alcohol-based cleaners may remove oil/grease from a shotgun)
5. Social Distancing (six feet) – Is it possible to maintain 6-foot distancing before, during, and after an activity? (e.g. waiting areas before many activities) In some instances there may be elements of our SOP which are problematic (e.g., 3 Scouts in a canoe)
6. Using Cohorts of people that stay in the same group is a preferred strategy (e.g., one patrol/cohort does not do things with other patrols, one troop/cohort does not do things with other troops)

## Steps

1. Identify what activities you want to offer. This may be based on advancement requirements, popularity, or the ease with which the activity can be offered. Safety and Health encourages you to identify activities that are critical to Scouts' success (such as key requirements for advancement) and ask for assistance in developing a plan even if it does not appear to be possible at first glance
2. Review your procedures as well as Scout guidelines for that activity. Identify what areas already appear to be in keeping with the five focus areas and which are problematic
3. Identify modifications to your procedures or work arounds that will allow you to offer the activity
4. After you have identified all the changes you think will be required, role-play with your team – as a Scout, and instructor, Scouter, or other relevant role to assess impact of these changes on the activity, additional resources that may be needed, and causes for concern for the safety and health of the participants.
5. Revise the plan as needed and reassess.