

Current COVID-19 Guidelines for GSNorCal Members

Updated as of 9/16/21

Our goal as Girl Scouts is to model leadership by prioritizing the health and safety of our members and communities, keeping kids in school, and reducing community spread of COVID-19, an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community.

GSNorCal follows public health guidance and requirements regarding vaccination, masking, testing, distancing, and quarantining, referred to as “COVID Mitigation Layers”.

GSNorCal supports troop leaders, event directors, and camp directors to use their judgment to establish even greater protection than GSNorCal’s requirements based on planned activities or current local conditions.

GSNorCal values inclusion and recognizes that some members of our community are at greater risk than others and need enhanced Covid Mitigation Layers to be safe. Some members of our community may not be able to wear masks and/or be vaccinated. We will work with members, and where possible, identify appropriate modifications and alternatives that will not increase the risk of COVID-19 exposure for Girl Scout participants.

Staff members are required to follow Cal OSHA requirements, as well as state and county guidelines. This means they may be masking at times when it may seem unnecessary to do so, however, please understand these guidelines may vary for them.

It is important to note that if individuals are feeling ill, they should stay away from in-person meetings or gatherings.

Masks

Indoors:

- Required for Girl Scout members and general public attending in-person Girl Scout meetings, activities, and/or event, including while carpooling.
- Required indoors at all times, on GSNorCal and non-GSNorCal properties.

Outdoors:

Masks are optional, except in these circumstances, where masks are required:

- Where social distancing cannot be maintained, like waiting in lines and event seating
- When required by the county, school district, school, or other organization where the activity is taking place
- When required by the troop leader, event director, or camp director who is responsible for the activity or event. Volunteers are often in the best position to determine whether greater protection is needed given the circumstances in their communities, the nature of the event, the vaccination rates of participants, etc.

Individuals medically exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge.

Vaccinations & Testing

- GSNorCal strongly recommends, but does not require, vaccines for all eligible adults and youth.
- GSNorCal supports volunteer troop leaders, event directors, and camp directors who choose to require in-person event participants to provide proof of vaccination and/or a negative COVID test within 72 hours of an event.
- Event First Aiders may also test a girl or adult participant for the COVID-19 virus, using a simple, over-the-counter test should the First Aider suspect possible exposure based on participant health.

Quarantine

The CDPH (California Department of Public Health) K-12 COVID Guidance provides clear rules for what to do if you come in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

- ***If fully vaccinated, follow the public health guidance for fully vaccinated people***—you do not need to quarantine if you are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic. Refer to the CDPH's [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Full Vaccinated People](#).
- ***If not fully vaccinated, follow the CDPH K-12 COVID Guidance:***
 - “Quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting”
 - This means, no in-person Girl Scout (or other extracurricular activities) for either:
 - 10 days after exposure if there has been no COVID testing; or
 - 7 days if tested after 5 days from exposure and COVID test is negative.
 - Members should contact their health care professionals if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
 - If troop leaders, event directors, or camp directors learn that an event participant has tested positive for COVID-19, please contact your Volunteer Support Manager (VSM) so that GSNorCal can notify families. Volunteers should not contact parents or guardians.

Isolation

If you feel sick, have COVID symptoms and/or have tested positive, isolate and **DO NOT** attend any in-person meetings, events, or activities.

Camping

Overnight camping is allowed in outdoor settings. Girls may share sleeping structures under the following conditions:

- Parents/guardians and troop leaders agree that girls may share sleeping structures. They can do so provided parents/guardians review and sign the updated [Activity and Event Permission Form](#).
- Sleeping structures (tents, cabins, dormitories, etc.) must be well ventilated with open windows or other ventilation systems in use.
- Campers must practice distancing as much as possible (sleeping head to foot in ground tents, cots or sleeping mats separated in buildings, etc.)
- Masks must be worn indoors at all GSNorCal properties.
- Masks must be worn indoors at all times, except when sleeping.
- Eating and drinking must be done outdoors only.

Carpooling

Carpooling is allowed with masking, under the following conditions:

- If parents/guardians and troop leaders agree that girls may share a carpool while on a girl event or activity, they can do so provided parents/guardians review and sign the updated [Activity and Event Permission Form](#).
- These guidelines are consistent with CDC's [Public Transit Guidelines](#).

In-Person Events

- Public health officials have emphasized “layers of protection” based on risk and environment.
- When events are held for non-members (Invite-a-Friend, recruitment, etc.), additional layers of protections need to be added because we are not in a position to do contact-tracing in the event of a COVID-positive exposure.
- Key layers of protection include:
 - Masks are required indoors and strongly encouraged outdoors (always required for staff)
 - No crowding indoors or outdoors
 - No eating or drinking indoors (to avoid the removal of masks)
 - Plan activities so that no one is in close proximity to another individual for more than 15 minutes.
- Signage at recruitment events/gatherings that clearly states GSNorCal focus on COVID-19 safety protocols
 - *“Safety is always a top priority in Girl Scouts and our events are designed for the safety of youth who are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not able to follow these rules and would like to learn more about Girl Scouts, please send an email to _____ and we will be happy to set up a time to connect.”*
 - [Download Sign Template](#)
- Event size should be limited based on the venue and number of staff and volunteers available to support the event.
 - Guidance:
 - Aim for no more than 50% capacity of venue capacity limitation
 - Plan to have enough staff to manage crowding, mask-wearing, etc.
- If possible, always meet outdoors. When outdoors:
 - Avoid crowding
 - Masks are encouraged for ALL participants and REQUIRED for staff
 - Eating and drinking are allowed in pre-packaged/individual servings
- If indoors, confirm capacity and adequate ventilation at the site
 - Masks are required for all participants
 - No eating or drinking is allowed (in order to ensure masks stay on)
 - Open doors and windows if possible to encourage cross ventilation
 - Prevent crowding and allow for at least 6’ distancing
- What if guests won’t comply with GSNorCal COVID guidelines?
 - Staff/event organizers should end the gathering and hand out pre-printed cards to attendees that state:
 - *“Thank you for stopping by to discover Girl Scouts. Unfortunately, some of today’s guests were not willing to comply with our COVID safety requirements, so we are not able to complete the event as planned. To learn more about Girl Scouts, please contact me at _____ and I will be happy to set up a time to connect.”*
 - [Download Card Template](#)

Meals & Snacks

Avoid any self-serve, shared food or drink options at Girl Scout meetings or events.

- Snacks are limited to pre-packaged or individual serving sizes which can be safely distributed without cross contamination by individuals wearing face coverings and gloves.
- Food practice guidelines as outlined in the [CDC's *Small Gatherings: Planning for Food and Drinks*](#) remain in place. 5/20/2021
- Eating and drinking indoors is not allowed.

Domestic Travel

Domestic travel is now possible, with the following advisory from the state of California.

- California no longer has a travel advisory in effect. There is now no state recommendation to test and quarantine before and after travel.
- The California Department of Public Health asks that you do the following:
 - Delay travel until you're fully vaccinated
 - If you're not fully vaccinated, but choose to travel, get tested before and after
 - No matter your vaccination status, wear a mask while on public transportation or in a transportation hub
 - Get tested if you feel sick and avoid traveling if you have or may have had COVID-19.
- The [Trip or High Adventure Approval](#) form should continue to be completed for all domestic travel.
- See [CDC's travel guidelines](#) and read more at [CDPH's travel flyer \(PDF\)](#)

International Travel

International travel is possible under the following conditions, as outlined by the CDC's [International Travel During COVID-19](#)

- Travelers must be fully vaccinated.
- Fully vaccinated people should follow the guidelines outlined in the link above.
- Unvaccinated people should also follow specific guidelines for them outlined in the above link.
- Travelers should check the U.S. Department of State's [International Travel Advisories](#) to understand which countries are Level 4 (Do Not Travel status) and Level 3 (Reconsider Travel).
 - Travel to Level 4 and Level 3 countries will not be approved by GSNorCal

The [Trip or High Adventure Approval](#) form should continue to be completed for all international trips.

Useful GSNorCal Forms (revised with COVID information)

[Annual Permission Form](#)

[Activity/Event Permission Form](#)

[Girl Health History Form](#)

[Adult Health History Form](#)

[Trip or High Adventure Approval Form](#)

[Introduction to SAFETY ACTIVITY CHECKPOINTS](#)

Additional COVID Resources

Public Health:

California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-2022 School Year: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

Masks:

California “Masks in Daily Life” Mandate: <https://covid19.ca.gov/masks-and-ppe/#Masks-in-daily-life>

Vaccination:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-19-Public-Health-Recommendations-for-Fully-Vaccinated-People.aspx>

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2021/08/11/california-implements-first-in-the-nation-measure-to-encourage-teachers-and-school-staff-to-get-vaccinated/>

Quarantining:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx>

Current Safety Measures:

California State “Do’s and Don’ts”: <https://covid19.ca.gov/safely-reopening/#what-to-do-now>