



Scouts
Scotland

Scouts Scotland
COVID-19 Framework for the
delivery of Scouting

26 April 2021

Permitted Scout Activity in Scotland from 26 April 2021

The following information outlines approaches to delivery that will be permitted from **26 April 2021**. Volunteers should not automatically seek to deliver activities face-to-face. The safest approach for your Section or Group may be to continue to deliver remotely or digitally. In addition, some children and young people may feel anxious or not ready to engage in face-to-face meetings and their views should be respected when considering how you will deliver and the right time and pace for any re- introduction of face-to-face Scouting. **Please ensure that you also check the most up to date [Scout Guidance](#) on the UK website, update [COVID risk assessments](#) and have new risk assessments approved if you will be meeting in different environments from before.**

Scout Yellow Readiness Level		Scout Amber Readiness Level	
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Under 18 years (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)			
All Section Meetings permitted indoors and outdoors with a maximum number of 30 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)	All Section Meetings permitted indoors and outdoors with a maximum number of 30 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)	The recommended method of delivery is online or outdoors	
		All Section Meetings permitted outdoors. No Indoor Meetings permitted The maximum number of persons should not exceed 30 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)	All Section Meetings permitted outdoors No Indoor Meetings permitted The maximum number of persons should not exceed 15 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)
<p>If multiple groups are meeting outdoors, then Groups must remain at least 25 metres apart, at all times. Adults must not mix with multiple groupings on the same evening – either during the same session or back-to-back. Physical distancing must also be maintained between adults, between adults and children/young people and between young people aged 12 and over - this is currently 2m.</p>			
18 years and over (Scout Network)			
All Section Meetings indoors and outdoors with a maximum number of 15 people including volunteers.	All Section Meetings permitted outdoors with a maximum number of 15 people including volunteers.	The recommended method of delivery is online or outdoors	
		All face-to-face Section Meetings should only take place where it cannot be delivered online and is essential to gaining a qualification or providing essential support to the most vulnerable members. The maximum number of persons outdoors should be limited to 15 including volunteers.	All Face-to face Section Meetings should only take place for the most vulnerable people who do not have other means of support and cannot access support remotely. The maximum number of persons outdoors should be limited to 5 including volunteers.

Adult Only Groups:

As stated previously, adult only groups such as campsite teams or Scout Active Support must continue to follow household restrictions and can travel outwith their local authority.

Excursions and Camps:

Local excursions which promote outdoor learning can take place as long as these excursions are appropriately risk assessed.

Although individual travel is now permitted across Scotland, we are asked to limit travel as far as possible while providing services. It is acceptable for groups to travel to a local Campsite/Activity Provider outwith their local authority, for a short visit, but this should be limited as much as possible until further guidance is made available.

Camps and Residential activities are currently **not permitted**, and we are still in discussion with relevant agencies for greater clarity (**the most likely option for outdoor camping this summer will be single occupancy tents**).

Travel:

Those using public transport / dedicated Scout transport should adhere to the latest Scottish Government legislation and/or guidelines, which is that all young people aged 5 and over and all adults must wear a face covering. Volunteers should also consider the appropriateness of travel for those with protected characteristics and respond to concerns expressed by volunteers who consider themselves to be at higher risk.

In planning any return to face-to-face delivery, leaders should consider how members would travel to the setting and, where possible, deliver within their locality.

Volunteers may wish to consider:

Before delivering Section Meetings outdoors, leadership teams should consider:

- How will volunteers and young people travel to the site or settings for outdoor meetings?
- Has travel been minimised as much as possible?
- What measures are needed to support cleaning of any equipment or materials to be used and to facilitate personal hygiene?
- How will you manage the number of young people engaging at any one time, particularly when your setting may be a public space?
- How will you manage physical distancing and safety arrangements?
- How will you communicate to young people your safety measures and the requirement to maintain physical distancing?

Risk Assessments, Health and Hygiene:

Leaders are reminded of the need to ensure that a full [COVID Risk Assessment](#) is approved by the District for each readiness level (Amber, Yellow, Green) or for meeting in a very different environment. There is also a need to review approved Risk Assessments regularly. **All leaders are required to have up to date safety and safeguarding training before returning to face-to-face delivery.**

This guiding framework is intended to support volunteers to follow and reinforce the [FACTS](#) protective measures within the context of delivery with young people.

The gradual and phased recommencement of face-to-face activities will be dependent on procedures and measures being in place for infection prevention and control. This includes:

- Physical distancing
- Enhanced cleaning arrangements and building ventilation
- Guidance on, and provision of equipment, where appropriate, for respiratory hygiene, e.g., face coverings and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where required
- Guidance on and facilities to aid personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing, or sanitising with alcohol gel
- Measures such as a contact/groupwork log to support contact tracing in line with the [Scottish Government Test and Protect COVID-19 guidance](#)
- Clear signage and communication for volunteers, parents and young people
- Guidance for volunteers about the procedure if someone becomes unwell on-site or one or more COVID-19 cases occur, including post activity/attendance within the facility

Physical distancing should be maintained at all times between adults, between adults and children/young people and between young people aged 12 and over. This is currently 2m. Volunteers should consult the latest Scottish Government guidance for the current default position for physical distancing, including the rules for children aged 11 and under and those aged 12+.

Before any delivery is undertaken, measures to ensure physical distancing should be in place. Physical distancing applies to all those in the setting (service users, staff, volunteers, external partners) and includes any public spaces to be used for delivery, such as parks. It applies across all internal and external areas within the setting, including toilets, offices, kitchen areas, storage rooms, spaces for face-to-face delivery, entrances and outdoor spaces such as car parks. Clear communication and signage should support implementation of physical distancing measures, emphasising the responsibility of both the organisation and all individuals to keep everyone safe.

Leadership Teams should consider:

- How you will manage and control the number of individuals in spaces and settings, to maintain physical distancing e.g. one-way systems in buildings
- How to ensure physical distancing is maintained between all volunteers and young people
- Scrutiny of indoor and outdoor facilities, layout and equipment to ensure physical distancing
- Clear signage throughout the setting
- Structure and timing of activities or sessions to decrease opportunity for interaction.

Teams working with children and young people with additional support needs may wish to refer to [Scottish Government guidance for physical distancing in education and childcare settings](#), regarding appropriate management of physical distancing and hygiene measures.

Face coverings

For the purposes of Scout activity, face coverings should be worn **indoors** by all adults and participants aged 12 years and over (or young people who are in S1 or older). We also recommend that those under the age of 12 years should be encouraged to wear a face covering indoors. The wearing of a face covering does not permit us to ignore or reduce physical distancing requirements – both are necessary indoors. Particular care should be taken where 2m distance cannot be guaranteed, e.g. where people are moving about in corridors, confined communal areas (including toilets), and other areas of buildings where physical distancing is particularly challenging. Some individuals are exempt from wearing face coverings. [See further information on exemptions from the Scottish Government.](#)

On dedicated transport, all volunteers and all children/young people aged five and over are required to wear face coverings, in line with guidance for public transport, unless they have a condition for which a face covering would be inappropriate.

A full list of mitigations can be found in the [Scottish Government guidance for the Community Learning and Development sector.](#)

COVID-19 symptoms, test and protect.

Volunteers have a responsibility to ensure they adhere to the Scottish Government Test and Protect COVID-19 guidance which says people with symptoms should stay at home and self-isolate (including household members). Volunteers should be supported to stay at home for the duration of the isolation period.

You should have clearly communicated guidance in place for your Scout Group or Section. Individual health factors should be considered when making decisions regarding a return to face-to-face delivery.

Volunteers should ensure there is a clear procedure in place to deal with situations if a volunteer or member falls ill with symptoms of COVID-19 whilst in your care.

Sections should have measures in place, such as a contact/groupwork log to support contact tracing in line with the [Scottish Government Test and Protect COVID-19 guidance.](#) These should comply with GDPR requirements and be stored securely for 21 days.

Communications

It is important that your plans for a gradual phased recommencement of face-to-face Scout activities, and the policies, procedures and measures you have in place to protect individuals and manage risk are clearly communicated to all volunteers and young people. You may wish to consult with young people to develop guidelines for attending, including safe and staggered arrival/leaving.

Some children, young people, parents, and volunteers may understandably feel anxious or uncertain about face-to-face delivery and their views should be considered within the decision-making process regarding a blended model of delivery. It is important to clearly communicate your plans and protection measures to everyone, and where possible and appropriate work with them as part of the process.

Groups may wish to consider how they use social media. Social media communication can provide opportunity to promote positive messages to young people and communities. It can also be useful in supporting young people to make safe and informed decisions regarding their face-to-face interactions. Careful consideration should be given to potential unintended impacts of social media communication however - for example reputational risks of images with young people who may be exempt from wearing a face covering, or who may appear not to be observing physical distancing.

Delivery in spaces managed by others

Where Scouting is delivered in spaces managed by others, including community halls, church halls and private outdoor settings, the organisation responsible for the setting should ensure they have a [venue risk assessment](#), procedures and facilities for infection prevention and control, and measures to support physical distancing. A Scout Group using these premises or settings should undertake a Scout risk assessment for the activity they will be delivering. They should comply with the mitigations put in place by the person responsible for the premises.