



Scouts
Scotland

Scouts Scotland

COVID-19 Framework for the delivery of Scouting

19 July 2021

Permitted Scout Activity in Scotland from 19 July 2021

The following information outlines approaches to delivery that will be permitted from **19 July 2021**. 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, e.g. indoors, outdoors or an activity that requires very specific Covid protocols.**

Scout Yellow Readiness Level	Scout Amber Readiness Level	
Level 0, 1 and 2	Level 3	Level 4
Under 18 years (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)		
<p>All meetings and events are permitted indoors and outdoors. Following a risk assessment, a space-based approach should be taken in line with capacity guidance. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided 1 metre physical distancing indoors and other mitigations remain in place. Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.</p>	The recommended method of delivery is online or outdoors	
	<p>All Section Meetings permitted outdoors.</p> <p>No Indoor Meetings permitted</p> <p>The maximum number of persons should not exceed 30 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)</p>	<p>All Section Meetings permitted outdoors</p> <p>No Indoor Meetings permitted</p> <p>The maximum number of persons should not exceed 15 people in any space (including volunteers and Young Leaders)</p>
<p>Adults can now work with multiple sections that meet back-to-back.</p> <p><u>Physical distancing is not required outdoors</u></p> <p>Physical distancing must also be maintained indoors between adults, between adults and children/young people and between young people aged 12 and over - this is currently 1m.</p>		
18 years and over (Scout Network)		
<p>All meetings and events are permitted indoors and outdoors. Following a risk assessment, a space-based approach should be taken in line with capacity guidance. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided 1 metre physical distancing indoors and other mitigations remain in place. Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.</p>	The recommended method of delivery is online or outdoors	
	<p>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.</p> <p>The maximum number of persons outdoors should be limited to 15 including volunteers.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The maximum number of persons outdoors should be limited to 5 including volunteers.</p>

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 in levels 0-2.

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 Campsite/Activity Provider outwith their local authority.

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 indoors?

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 indoors
- 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 indoors between adults, between adults and children/young people and between young people aged 12 and over. This is currently 1m. 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 indoor public spaces to be used for delivery. It applies across all internal areas within the setting, including toilets, offices, kitchen areas, storage rooms, spaces for face-to-face delivery and entrances. 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 indoors
- Scrutiny of indoor 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 coverings does not permit us to ignore or reduce physical distancing requirements – both are necessary indoors. Particular care should be taken where 1m 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 places, 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 indoors. 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.

Camping and Residential Experiences

Scotland

19 July 2021

Camping and Residential activities are at the heart of what we do as Scouts, and we know that this level of activity has been the most impacted over the past year.

The Scottish Government has now provided a route plan for the recommencement of these activities and this update will take effect on **19 July 2021**. **Please remember these arrangements can change at short notice and may mean that an event has to be cancelled or postponed.** This needs to be considered in regard to loss of deposits and communicated to parents.

Before any planning starts it is essential that you read through the guidance relating to [planning COVID safe nights away](#). In particular, note the different procedures for the approval of COVID risk assessments in relation to Nights Away experiences. **Use the UK guidance for Nights Away alongside this factsheet, in respect to the rules in Scotland.**

All adult members who are involved in any Nights Away experience must have all their safety and safeguarding mandatory training up to date and all adults must have a current PVG.

What can we do in Scotland?

From 19 July 2021

Scout Camping counts as residential activity under Scottish Government guidance and must adhere to national guidance on residentials for youth work.

Yellow Readiness Level			Amber	Red
Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Under 18 years (Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers)				
All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing indoors and other mitigations remain in place. Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.	All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing and other mitigations remain in place. Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.	All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing and other mitigations remain in place. Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.	No residential	No residential
Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 8 young people from 4 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 0 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.	Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 6 young people from 3 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 1 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.	Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 6 young people from 3 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 2 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.		
18 years and over (Scout Network)				
All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing indoors and other mitigations remain in place.	All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing and other mitigations remain in place.	All camps and residential experiences permitted indoors and outdoors. Numbers will be based on the capacity of the venue provided, physical distancing and other mitigations remain in place.	No residential	No residential
Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 8 young people from 4 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 0 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.	Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 6 young people from 3 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 1 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.	Multi occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 6 young people from 3 households, based on the new Covid-19 Protection Level 2 at the home local authority. Adult leaders from separate households in single person tents/rooms.		

Multiple Groups at the same campsite:

It is possible for more than one Group (**in line with the table above**) to camp on the same site. **However**, these groups must be totally self-sufficient, be at least 25 meters apart at all times and can have zero interaction with each other. Please be very clear that this must be explicitly set out in the risk assessment that must in turn be approved through the Nights Away process.

Toilets and Washing Facilities:

Washing and toilet facilities must be reserved for single person use at any one time in level 2 at the destination. It is good practice for all participants to carry, and keep ready to use, alcohol-based hand sanitiser. This should be used throughout the day, whenever surfaces are touched prior to and after eating and using the toilet. Plenty of hand soap and water should be available at campsites.

Face Coverings and Physical Distance:

It is important that current guidance on face coverings (indoors) and social distancing (indoors) is followed at all times and that this is managed appropriately by young people, peer leaders and adults.

Travel Restrictions:

Travel is only permitted when the virus prevalence is equivalent to new COVID-19 protection levels 0, 1 and 2 at both the originating authority and the destination. Please remember this can change and may mean that an event has to be cancelled at short notice.

Journeys must not involve travel out of or into a Level 3 area (* groups may travel through areas subject to higher protection levels but should make every effort not to stop in a higher-level area).

Travel Considerations:

On dedicated transport, face coverings should be worn by anyone aged 5 years and over (unless exemptions apply).

Maintaining distance between young people on dedicated transport is not necessary, but any adults travelling by dedicated transport should conform with the requirements for public transport (1 metre distancing with appropriate mitigation measures in place and the wearing of face coverings)

An effective enhanced cleaning regime should be in place. This includes cleaning of frequently touched surfaces after each journey.

Measures to protect drivers and leaders who are accompanying young people on dedicated transport should be informed by a risk assessment before any transport is considered. This may include leaving seats behind/beside the driver empty or fitting a physical barrier or screen.

As stated above, dedicated transport can only be used for one group of as detailed in the table above.

Travel to some parts of England may be restricted and leaders should consult Scottish Government advice on travel and transport - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-travel-and-transport/>.

The following precautionary approaches may help further minimise risk:

- Assigning the same seats for the out/in journey.
- Where possible, distancing between individual passengers, particularly aged 12+

- All individuals should be encouraged to sanitise hands prior to boarding the transport and on arrival/ return.
- Good respiratory hygiene should be reinforced, such as encouraging young people to carry tissues.
- The consumption and sharing of food and drink should not be allowed.
- Windows on dedicated transport should be kept open, where possible, and ensure that mechanical ventilation uses fresh rather than recirculated air; or use air conditioning with attention paid to the appropriate frequency for changes of filters.

Lateral Flow Checks:

Whilst not compulsory, The Scouts strongly recommend asking members aged 12 and above to undertake lateral flow tests, in relation to nights away. This will provide confidence to members, parents and volunteers before and during camps and residential experiences. Further detail can be found [here](#).

Your risk assessment and parental consent process should make clear that parents are responsible for coming to collect their child promptly, should they develop Covid symptoms and/or return a positive test result. They should also be aware that the camp could be cut short if an adult tests positive.

Expedition Advice:

Light weight camping as part of a journey or expedition is an integral part of Scouting and forms part of our badge work scheme and top awards. Expedition camping presents a few areas that must be considered within risk assessment in relation to COVID-19.

Group size should be selected to make the group and mitigation steps manageable. Smaller expedition groups would be preferable to make the process of running expeditions easier. Expeditions must follow the Scout rules in regard to group sizes. Camping arrangements must not exceed those detailed in the table above based on your home local authority.

To avoid weight becoming prohibitive, with the need to provide more or larger tents, additional tents may be taken to the camp by vehicle, and expeditions should be planned with this in mind.

Young people should not be expected to carry more weight than normal or reasonably practical or safe.

It is acceptable for participants to work together to put up tents, but they must do so with care for maximising the distance between them and use hand sanitiser after touching another participant's equipment.

Participants do not need to wear face coverings whilst outdoors and cooking, but they should be mindful to limit touching, wash hands, use alcohol-based hand sanitising gel etc (taking care not to be near naked flames).

Participants (and staff) should use separate plates, mugs, and cutlery.

To avoid weight becoming prohibitive, additional stoves and gas may be taken to the camp by vehicle, and expeditions should be planned with this in mind.

Venue Risk Assessments:

Leaders planning camps and residential experiences should satisfy themselves that venue COVID protocols are in place to ensure the safety of their members. On request, venues should provide a copy of their COVID risk assessment to groups. District Commissioners may also ask to see these prior to approval.

Graeme Luke
Head of Scouting Operations/ Deputy Chief Executive