



Scouts
Scotland

Scouts Scotland
COVID-19 Framework for the
delivery of Scouting

05 January 2022

Permitted Scout Activity in Scotland from 5 January 2022

The following information outlines approaches to delivery that will be permitted from the date above.

A District approved covid risk assessment is no longer required but you must have a risk assessment for all meetings and activities that incorporates covid measures. However, any Section that has not had a covid risk assessment approved before should seek the approval of their District Commissioner before recommencing. This is purely to offer support and guidance.

[Scout Guidance](#) continues to be available on the UK website to assist.

Scout Green Readiness Level

Beyond Level 0

Applies to all Sections and Volunteers

All meetings and events are permitted indoors and outdoors with no limit of numbers.
(See separate information in regard to camps, residential experiences and international trips).

No physical distancing is required in any setting but face coverings must be worn in indoor locations by everyone aged 12+

Volunteers and young people over 12 and anyone else participating should be encouraged to adhere to the revised guidance on testing before meeting up with other households, especially indoors, and take lateral flow tests before attending. This can be combined with tests carried out for school.

Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.

Keeping Everyone Safe

The revised Scottish Strategic Framework is the main source of information for this guidance. It makes clear that some of these measures, provided for either by regulations or in guidance, will be expected to continue and everyone should continue to act carefully and remain cautious including:

- good hand hygiene and surface cleaning
- continued promotion of good ventilation
- requirement for face coverings in certain settings (e.g. public transport)
- continued compliance with Test and Protect, including a register of attendance at every meeting.
- Ensure reasonable physical distancing between adults and between adults and young people in indoor settings. There is no requirement for strict physical distancing between children and young people, although maintaining distancing between secondary school pupils is encouraged where possible.

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 12 and over and all adults must wear a face covering. Volunteers should also consider the appropriateness of travel for those who are clinically vulnerable and respond to concerns expressed by volunteers who consider themselves to be at higher risk.

Volunteers may wish to consider:

Before delivering Section Meetings, leadership teams should consider:

- What measures are needed to support cleaning of any equipment or materials to be used and to facilitate personal hygiene.
- How will you communicate to young people your safety measures?

Risk Assessments, Health and Hygiene:

Leaders are reminded of the need to have a Covid risk assessment. Covid risks can be integrated into your regular risk assessments if you prefer. There is also a need to review all Risk Assessments regularly. **All leaders are required to have up to date safety and safeguarding training before returning to face-to-face delivery and then on an ongoing basis.**

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](#) and procedures and facilities for infection prevention and control. 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, Residential and International Experiences

Scotland

From 5 January 2022

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 since early 2020.

Camping, Residential and International Experiences are now permitted, following the guidance detailed in this communication.

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](#). COVID risk assessments in relation to Nights Away experiences should be integrated into event risk assessments when seeking DC approval. **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?

Scout Camping, Residential and International Experiences count as residential activity under Scottish Government guidance and must adhere to national guidance on residentials for schools and youth work.

Scout Green Readiness Level
Beyond Level 0
Applies to all Sections and Volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">All camps, residential and international experiences permitted indoors and outdoors.Scout ratios for both indoors and outdoors must be applied.No limit on numbers in tents or rooms.No physical distancing is required outdoors but 1 metre is required between adults and between adults and young people indoors.Face Coverings are required indoors for age 12+

Travel Considerations:

On dedicated transport, face coverings should be worn by anyone aged 12 years and over (unless exemptions apply).

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

The following precautionary approaches may help further minimise risk:

- Assigning the same seats for the out/in journey.
- 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 be discouraged.
- 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.

International Experiences

International experiences can now take place; however, organisers should consider carefully whether such trips would be appropriate in light of their local circumstances and wider guidance on international travel, which is available on the [FCDO website](#). This should include a risk-based assessment of the following:

- The health and other risks associated with current international travel, including any public health advice for the destination country.
- The potential benefits to the health, wellbeing and learning of young people which may be offered by the trip, and would be difficult to achieve through other means (such as travel to a UK destination).
- Specific testing and isolation requirements, both in the UK and for any destination country.
- **Whether or not adequate insurance is in place, including financial protection for possible cancellation or other costs.**
- The age and number of young people and volunteers involved in the trip, and how this may affect the associated transmission risks and/or implications of someone contracting COVID during the trip.
- Any additional transmission risks associated with specific activities during the trip.

All groups must follow the [Scouts Visits Abroad process](#) and ensure that COVID risks are considered in risk assessments and critical incident plans.

Organisers are also reminded that the travel list (and broader international travel policy) is subject to change and countries may be moved onto the red list at any point. If the travel lists change during a visit, organisers must comply with [international travel guidance](#) and should have contingency plans in place to account for these changes.

In case of a participant developing COVID-19 during an international trip, it is a matter for individual groups to devise an appropriate isolation and repatriation plan for their individual circumstances. For example, it may not always be feasible to arrange repatriation for a participant if already abroad, so it may be more appropriate for an infected individual to isolate locally, for the remainder of the trip or as long as required, depending on destination restrictions and trip duration. Additionally, organisers should consider arrangements for volunteer isolation and repatriation, including any safeguarding implications this may have should multiple volunteers be required to isolate, as well as access to testing if required.

Lateral Flow Checks:

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

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
Chief Executive Officer