

Dear Blackhawk Area Council Scouts and Scouters,

Below are current COVID-19 safeguards for the Blackhawk Area Council as of May 14, 2021 and are subject to revision. These safeguards are in place to mitigate the risk of contracting COVID-19.

IL has now entered into the BRIDGE phase. **The Bridge is a step towards Phase 5 that increases capacity limitations.** Once in Phase 5 we will not have capacity limitations. However, it is unknown if face coverings and social distancing and other guidance will continue once we are in Phase 5. You can read more on the [Bridge Phase HERE](#)

Please note: Scouting touches on many different areas of the guidance put forth by the state. The nature of the activity may fall under multiple settings.

1. General

- Follow local, state, and federal guidelines as it pertains to participation in activities. You can view your area's current guidelines by clicking below:
 - **Illinois-** [IL Regional Metrics](#) [BRIDGE PHASE](#)
 - **Wisconsin –** [WI County Activity Levels](#) [WI guidance doc see pages 9-12](#)
 - Grant: High
 - Green: Medium
 - Lafayette: High
- Remember, your chartered organization owns your unit and may have its own policies and requirements **in addition to** local, state, and federal guidelines. If so, you must adhere to their additional requirements.
- Maintain social distancing
- Sanitize the meeting area as well as the equipment used for each activity frequently.
- Keep attendance for both youth and adults in the event contact tracing is needed.
- Adhere to [Youth Protection Policies](#).
- Ensure that hand sanitizer is available and used regularly (either supplied or each person brings their own.)
- Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water.
- Additional guidance and resources can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus>

2. COVID-19 Plans

- Units should have and share with families their chartered organization approved COVID-19 safety plan.
- For guidance, please refer to the: [Restart Scouting Check List](#)
- For any event, please ensure all participants are using the [National COVID-19 Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#)

3. Face Coverings

- Adhere to the state mandate on face coverings [IL FACE COVERINGS](#). [WI FACE COVERINGS](#)
- Your chartered organization owns your unit and may have its own policies and requirements **in addition to** local, state, and federal guidelines. OR If you are meeting at a location that is not your chartered organization their rules must be followed. If so, you must adhere to their additional requirements.

4. Capacities

- NEW*** - Those that are fully vaccinated individuals with proof of full vaccination — defined as 14 days after receiving a final vaccine dose — or a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) 1-3 days prior to an event do not count against capacity limits.
- In-person Scout gatherings:
 - **Illinois:** 60 % of capacity, for indoors. Outdoor groups of 100. Multiple groups permissible.
 - **Wisconsin:**
 - Grant: Indoor 10 people or fewer. Outdoor 25 or fewer.
 - Green: Indoor 25 people or fewer. Outdoor 50 or fewer.
 - Lafayette: Indoor 10 people or fewer. Outdoor 25 or fewer.
- For virtual meetings all youth protection policies and guidelines for online meetings, including having multiple adults over the age of 21 present the entire time, must be followed.
- If both male and female youth are on the same conferencing event, one adult of each gender must also actively participate. As a reminder, make sure youth are never being recorded or filmed.
- Blackhawk Area Council has established this resource page for virtual meetings and activities: [Scouting @ Home](#)

6. Meals

- While many unit activities include the sharing of meals, there continue to be restrictions regarding the sharing of food. It is important that the unit develop dining protocols (including but not limited to):
 - No self-serve buffet meals or common water coolers.
 - Use of disposable utensils, napkins, cups, and plates.
 - Clean and disinfect eating and cooking gear after each use.
- When in doubt, the safest answer is for families to bring their own food or to not have any “community or potluck” food at your events for the time being.

- Here are some additional suggestions to consider:
 - Utilize single-serve, prepackaged foods.
 - If the unit wants to do a “community meal”, pick a person to take or find a person who has ServSafe training found here: <https://www.servsafe.com/ServSafe-Food-Handler/Get-Certified>
 - The ServSafe trained person can cook and coordinate the distribution of the food.
 - Choose a caterer or restaurant that could provide the meals and separate the servings appropriately.
 - If commercial food is offered, make sure that the food is not repackaged by the unit.

7. Camping

- Overnight camping is permitted. For the detailed camping guidance please see our Blackhawk Area Council Camping Guidance.

8. Carpooling

- Carpooling is permitted with utilization of face coverings and ensuring the middle seat of each row in the vehicle is left vacant.

8. Vaccinations:

Blackhawk Area Council encourages everyone eligible to become fully vaccinated but will not be mandating vaccinations to participate in Scouting.

If you've been fully vaccinated (from the CDC: [CDC Link](#)):

- You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic.
- You can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.
- If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.
- You need to pay close attention to the situation at your international destination before traveling outside the United States.
 - You do NOT need to get tested **before** leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.
 - You still need to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 **before** boarding an international flight to the United States.
 - You should still get tested 3-5 days **after** international travel.
 - You do NOT need to self-quarantine **after** arriving in the United States.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live or work in a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.
- If you travel, you should still take steps to protect yourself and others. You will still be required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Fully vaccinated international travelers arriving in the United States are still required to get tested within 3 days of their flight (or show documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months) and should still get tested 3-5 days after their trip.
- You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system, should talk to their healthcare provider to discuss their activities. They may need to keep taking all precautions to prevent COVID-19.

We appreciate everyone's commitment to our youth in Blackhawk Area Council. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Scouting,

The Blackhawk Area Council Risk Management Committee

And your Council Key 3

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