

Return to Scouting Guidelines:

Introduction:

While this document provides a guide for a safe return to scouting activities, it is important to note that this is a living document and will require updates as government and Scouting Ireland guidelines change and as more up to date advice becomes available from the relevant expert bodies.

Our priority at all times must be to protect the health and welfare of all those involved in Scouting in Buíon Setanta 5th Louth Scout Group and to minimise the risk of transmission within our group.

Unless and until a vaccine is available, there will be a risk associated with Covid- 19. We would encourage all members, but particularly those who may consider themselves in a vulnerable category, to seek appropriate advice and perform a personal risk assessment before deciding whether to re-engage in scouting activities.

This document should be read in conjunction with the Scouting Ireland guidance documents.

The most challenging aspect of the relevant guidance for us will be the ongoing requirement to maintain social distance between our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Ventures throughout the resumption of meetings and activities.

The overarching conditions which are relevant to all activities and meetings until further updates of this guidance document are issued are as follows:

- A Scouter must be present at all meetings and activities
- Social Distancing of 2 metres required.
- Strict hand hygiene protocols must be followed.
- A contact tracing log must be maintained for all meetings and activities.
- All scouters and parents/ guardians of youth members are required to complete a health questionnaire prior to attending any meeting or activity.
- Car sharing from separate households is not permitted.
- All Scouting Ireland Scouter to Beaver/ Cub/ Scout/ Venture ratios to be followed.

Meetings:

For the time-being all meetings and activities are to take place outdoors. Personal hygiene importance and use of hand sanitation on entry and exit. This toilet cubicles and sink area to be cleaned down at the beginning and end of every meeting by the Section Leader/ Leader in Charge.

List of attendees to be taken by the Section Leader/ Leader in Charge (Contact Tracing Doc).

Hand/ Personal Hygiene measures to be taken:

- Start of meeting
- During meeting
- End of meeting

Typical touch points to be wiped down with sanitiser on arrival and before leaving by Section Leader/ Leader in Charge.

Throughout meetings Leaders will remind scouts to social distance and also enforce small group working system which stays the same throughout all meetings. i.e. Scouts work in groups of no more than 12, if sections are bigger than the group is to be split into two smaller groups of less than 12 in each. These smaller groups are to remain with the same scouts throughout all meetings and activities.

Pre- Meetings:

Parents/ Guardians must ensure that their child is aware of the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and of social/ physical distancing guidance.

A parent/ guardian or a child displaying any of the Covid-19 symptoms must not attend for meetings or any other Scouting activities.

Parent/ Guardian should:

- Complete the health questionnaire in advance of the first return to the group and provide it to their Section Leader/ Leader in Charge.
- Seek medical advice if their child has underlying health conditions before returning to the scouting meetings.

- Ensure that the Section Leader/ Leader in Charge is made aware of any medical condition that their child may have including any medication the child may be required to take during the day or any changes in their child's medical condition from what is recorded in the initial health questionnaire completed by the parent/ guardian.
- Ensure if any relevant information contained in the health questionnaire, including the parents contact details, change from meeting to meeting.
- Continue to monitor their child's temperature before each training session
- Inform the Section Leader/ Leader in Charge of any changes of their child's temperature or health.
- Ensure their child has washed their hands prior to arriving to the scout meeting.
- Ensure their child arrives ready for the meeting or activity.
- Ensure their child has appropriate clothing i.e. rain jacket, sun cream.
- Ensure their child has their own water bottle, marked with the child's name
- If deemed appropriate provide their child with their own hand sanitiser (at least 60% alcohol) labelled.

During Meetings:

No person or child should attend a scouting activity if they are unwell or members of their household are showing symptoms consistent with Covid-19.

Parent/ Guardian should:

- Provide the Section Leader/ Leader in Charge with their child Health Questionnaire on the first day of return to meetings.
- Parents should adhere to the social distancing guidelines when approaching leaders.
- When collecting their child avoid any physical contact with leaders, other parents and other children.

Parent/ Guardian should inform their child that they:

- Must refrain from shaking hands, high fives or any close contact with other children.
- Must wash their hands and use hand sanitiser prior to and post going to the toilet.
- Must use their own water bottle, labelled with the child's name.

Post Meetings:

- Scouts must leave immediately after meetings with members from their own household only.
- Scouts should wash their hands
- Parents should collect their child from the collection area as advised by the group.
- Parents should ensure that all gear and equipment is collected and taken home and appropriately cleaned prior to the next section meeting or activity.

How to manage a child, with COVID-19 symptoms:

- If at any time during a section meeting or activity your child displays signs or symptoms of Covid-19, as the parent/ guardian the Section Leader or Leader in Charge will contact you.
- The parent/ guardian will transport the child home and should consult with their GP by phone of their child's symptoms.
- All people who have been in close contact with a confirmed or GP suspected case will need to be informed to restrict their movements for 14 days or until further information is available (i.e. a negative test result of the suspected case).

Suspected Covid-19 Cases:

- If a scout or scouter has been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 they must inform their section leader immediately and not attend meetings until they get a negative test or until after they have self-isolated for 14 days. All returns to meetings by a scout or scouter after being in contact with a confirmed case must be confirmed in advanced with the section leader before returning to the meetings.
- If a scout or scouter is referred for a test for Covid-19 by their GP the section leader must be informed in straight away.
- If a scout or scouter tests positive for Covid-19 they must inform their section leader straight away and not return to meetings until the section leader confirms that they can. A scout or scouter who tests positive will not be allowed to return to meetings for a minimum of 14 days.
- Any information received in relation to a scout or scouter being in close contact, being sent for a test or testing positive will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and the scout or scouters name will not be revealed to other scouts, scouters or parents with the exception of the Group Leader or other Group Council Members who may need to be aware of the persons name. Anyone who has been in contact with the scout or scouter will be informed that a person has been in close contact,

has been sent for a test or has tested positive but the person's name will not be notified to them.

Induction Training and Briefing:

- All scouters before returning to meetings must undergo an induction training and briefing with the Group Leader. This is mandatory for all scouters looking to return to meetings or activities.