

GSSEF “Communicable Disease Mitigation Guidelines”
Effective April 1, 2021 • **Revised November 9, 2021**

This guidance supersedes updates provided prior to 11/9/2021 and is in effect until further notice.

Purpose:

The “Communicable Disease Mitigation Guidelines” document is created to provide support for Girl Scout groups who are interested in overnight travel and camping when there are known circumstances that may lead to a significant risk to public health and safety.

Guiding Metrics:

Current guidelines are based upon the reporting and recommendations from the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) including the “Community Transmission in US by County” assignments of low, moderate, substantial, and high transmission for COVID-19. The report, as well as the transmission calculator, can be accessed here: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

Expectations:

The guidelines include required safety protocols and recommendations that will mitigate risk from communicable disease. GSSEF expects the self-identified, designated adult volunteer who is coordinating the travel/camping to share this document with other appropriate volunteers supporting travel plans and to ensure this is followed.

Transportation/car-pooling:

Due to the proximity within a confined space of a motor vehicle, carpooling and use of public transportation should be avoided if possible. When possible, individual families should provide transportation for the girl(s) in their own household. Consumption of food and beverages should be limited while carpooling with individuals from multiple households. If travel time is lengthy, it is recommended that frequent stops are made for fresh air or periodically opening the vehicle’s windows while driving.

Signs of symptoms or illness while traveling:

- Monitor travelers throughout each day of the trip, watching for symptoms such as fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, extreme body or headaches, new body pain, cough, nasal drip, and blurry vision.
- Should designated adult(s) notice signs of illness, consult the Health History Form and document the date, time and symptom.
- Based on the onset, severity and consistency of the symptoms, the designated adult should contact the parent/guardian (for minors) or emergency contact (for adults).
- Based on the onset, severity and consistency of the symptoms, the designated adult should make accommodations to quarantine the individual while arrangements can be made for the individual’s expedited departure.
- Expedited departure should be a maximum of 3 hours when possible.
- Details about the individual’s physical state/appearance at the time of departure should be documented by the designated adult.

Meals while traveling:

- Require all diners wash and disinfect hands before and after meals.
- Consume restaurant meals in outdoor seating areas when possible.
- Allow for at least 3 - 6 feet between individuals, when possible, this includes time spent waiting/standing in line while awaiting meals.

Masks while traveling:

- Masks must cover the nose and mouth; facial shields are accepted for special circumstances.
- Children under the age of 2 are not required to wear masks.
- Masks should not be worn while sleeping.
- Masks should not be worn while participating in water-related activities such as diving, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, paddle boarding, or paddle boating.
- Masks should not be worn while participating in strenuous outdoor activities such as running, racing, vigorous hiking, sports, or competitive games.
- Members should refer to the council's "**GSSEF COVID-19 Guidelines for Mask Wearing**" for guidance on the use of masks during transportation, activities, dining, etc. while traveling.

Overnight Trip Travel:

- Use of applicable GSSEF pre-approval forms related to overnight travel. This includes use of the "**Release/Waiver for Assumption of COVID-19 Risk form**" for travel, for every person.
- Only members of the same household are permitted to share hotel room sleeping accommodations.
- Members of different households are permitted to share rental homes provided only members of the same household share sleeping spaces (i.e. bedrooms).
- Only members of the same household are permitted to share recreational vehicles (i.e. RV) for overnight sleeping.
- The use of facial coverings/masks while sleeping is dangerous and strongly discouraged.
- Designate a schedule for handwashing throughout trip.
- Disinfect group-use items between uses and throughout the trip.
- Members should refer to the council's "**GSSEF COVID-19 Guidelines for Mask Wearing**" for guidance on the use of masks during transportation, activities, dining, etc. while traveling.

Overnight Camping Travel:

- Use of applicable GSSEF pre-approval forms related to overnight travel. This includes use of the "**Release/Waiver for Assumption of COVID-19 Risk form**" for travel, for every person.
- Only members of the same household are permitted to share sleeping accommodations, at any site at either camp property, that exceed these explicitly stated maximums.
- Designate a schedule for handwashing throughout trip.
- Disinfect group-use items between uses and throughout the trip.
- Disinfect high-touch areas such as group-use surfaces door handles, handrails, toilet levers, and sink/shower handles at least once per day.
- Members should refer to the council's "**GSSEF COVID-19 Guidelines for Mask Wearing**" for guidance on the use of masks during transportation, activities, dining, etc. while camping.
- Members should refer to the council's "**GSSEF Camp Capacity Guidelines Adjusted for COVID-19 Community Transmission Rates**" for guidance on sleeping and dining.
- Allow for at least 3 feet between the heads of individuals, in the sleeping position.