

GSSEF Communicable Disease Mitigation Guidelines
Effective April 1, 2021, revised August 4, 2021 • 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 planning for overnight travel and camping when there are known circumstances that may lead to a significant risk to public health and safety. It will be implemented on an as-needed basis.

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 to share this document with other appropriate volunteers supporting travel plans and to ensure this is followed.

Travel Transportation/car-pooling:

Due to the proximity within a confined space of a motor vehicle, we recommend avoiding carpooling and use of public transportation, if possible. When possible, individual families should provide transportation for the girl(s) in their own household.

When carpooling is necessary, face coverings/masks* are required by the driver and passengers. We recommend that consumption of food and beverages are avoided while carpooling. If travel time is lengthy, GSSEF recommends that drivers make stops for fresh air or periodically open vehicle 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.

Use of Face Coverings (aka masks) while traveling:

- Face coverings/masks refer to coverings for the nose and mouth; this does not include facial shields.
- Face coverings/masks are required for shared transportation (i.e. carpooling) or when using public transportation.
- Face coverings/masks are required for participation in group activities, as well as walking and/or touring indoors and outdoors.
- Face coverings/masks are required for singing in groups.
- Face coverings/masks are recommended, but not required, for participating in archery.
- Facial coverings/masks should not be worn while sleeping.
- Facial coverings/masks should not be worn while participating in water-related activities such as diving, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, water skiing, paddle boarding, or paddle boating.
- Facial coverings/masks should not be worn while participating in strenuous outdoor activities such as running, racing, vigorous hiking, sports, or competitive games.
- Individuals age 2 and under are not required to wear face coverings/masks.

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 each girl and adult.
- 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.
- GSSEF does not require use of facial coverings/masks while sleeping; this practice is discouraged.
- Arrange chairs with 3 ft. between individuals for both indoor and outdoor group activities.
- Designate a schedule for handwashing throughout trip.
- Disinfect group-use items between uses and throughout the trip.

Meals while traveling:

- Require all diners wash and disinfect hands before and after meals.
- Consume restaurant meals in outdoor seating areas when possible.
- Face coverings/masks are required when entering/exiting a restaurant.
- Face coverings/masks may be removed only after being seated at the table.
- Allow for at least 3 ft. between individuals when possible.

Camping 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 each girl and adult.
- A maximum of three individuals, from different households, are permitted to share sleeping accommodations inside platform tents at Camp Welaka.
- A maximum of three individuals, from different households, are permitted to share sleeping accommodations inside sleeping cabins at Camp Welaka.
- A maximum of four individuals, from different households, are permitted to share sleeping accommodations inside cabins at Camp Nocatee.
- When primitive/tent camping, individuals from different households, are permitted to share sleeping accommodations only when a minimum of 3 ft. of distance can be maintained inside the tent. Individuals must sleep head to toe.
- 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.
- GSSEF does not require use of facial coverings/masks while sleeping; this practice is discouraged.

Camping and common outdoor activities:

Archery:

- Each shooter must disinfect hands before selecting equipment and after each turn at the shooting line.
- Equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between groups but is not required between individual shooters in the same group.

Canoeing/Kayaking/Paddle boarding:

- Each paddler and passenger must disinfect hands before selecting equipment and at the conclusion of the activity.
- Equipment must be disinfected between individual users. This includes the canoe, kayak, or paddle board.

Meals:

- Require all diners wash and disinfect hands before and after meals.
- Disinfect tables and seating before and after meals.
- Arrange diners in small groups and allow for at least 6th between tables and 3 ft. between individuals when possible.
- Plan meals to be consumed in unit houses; use of Founder's Hall at Nocatee or The Lodge at Welaka for serving food/dining is prohibited.
- Plan meals to be consumed outdoors when possible.
- Individuals serving food must wear face coverings/masks and gloves.
- Use individual-serving condiments such as salt, pepper, ketchup, and salad dressing, when possible.

Sleeping:

- Disinfect cots/mattresses prior to use.
- Open tent sides or windows when possible.
- Use the ceiling fan when possible.
- Allow for at least 3 ft. between the heads of individuals, in the sleeping position.

General:

- Disinfect high-touch areas such as group-use surfaces door handles, handrails, toilet levers, and sink/shower handles at least once per day.
- Designate a schedule for handwashing throughout trip.
- Disinfect group-use items such as scissors, markers, hula hoops, jump ropes, sports balls, etc. between uses.
- Maximum capacity for group gatherings in Founder’s Hall (Nocatee) is 75 individuals.
- Maximum capacity for group gatherings in The Lodge (Welaka) is 50 individuals.
- Arrange chairs with 3 ft. between individuals for both indoor and outdoor group activities.

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