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15 July 2021

COVID-19 update for Scouts

Dear Scouting Friend,

On 14th July, the extension of COVID-19 lockdown provisions for the Greater Sydney/Central Coast/Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour areas was announced. This will immediately impact the commencement of Term 3 activities for these regions. Further, existing NSW Health advice for regional NSW affects Scouting activities elsewhere in NSW.

Scouts NSW will follow the advice of NSW Health with the following immediate effect:

1. In Greater Sydney (including the local government areas of the Central Coast, the City of Shellharbour and the City of Wollongong) until further notice, Scouting activities may only take place by Video Conferencing (e.g. Teams/ Zoom) because of the Direction of the Minister in Clause 20 of the *Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021* that a person must not, without reasonable excuse, be away from their place of residence.
2. In other parts of NSW, Scouting may continue provided that:
 - a. Appropriate physical distancing requirements are complied with;
 - b. The relevant COVID-19 Safety Plans (for indoor or outdoor gatherings) have been prepared in accordance with the *Public Health (COVID-19 Gathering Restrictions) Order (No 2)* and is in the possession of the organiser and that masks are worn by all persons over the age of 12 years (as required by Clause 17 of *Public Health (COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions) Order 2021*) - YES, even outside!
 - c. There is detailed information on Scouts' COVID-19 Safe policies and procedures, and resources [here](#).
3. QR codes (using the Service NSW QR code service) are now mandatory for all indoor and outdoor recreation facilities (from 12 July). Information on setting up a QR code and resources for displaying it at all venues is available [here](#).

We recommend that leaders continue to regularly check the [NSW Health Advice](#) as it may change at short notice. These restrictions on Scouting activities will continue until the lockdown provisions lift or otherwise advised.

Youth Safety in Scouting

Scouts NSW is committed to operating as a youth safe organisation and implementing youth safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the Scouts NSW Service Centre. To make a report use the [online youth protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email youthprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If someone is in danger NOW, the matter should be reported directly to NSW Police on 000. Where a report is made to the Police, you must also subsequently notify Scouts NSW Service Centre.

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