

Golden Gate Area Council

Updated COVID-19 Policy

June 16, 2021

Preface

As the country and state recovers from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are encountering new challenges in understanding and interpreting all the guidance from the various government bodies, including, but not limited to, the California Department of Public Health, CalOSHA, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While some of this guidance can be contradictory and confusing, our overarching goal is to keep both our Campers and Staff Members safe. The COVID virus has not gone away; it is still a presence that needs to be addressed and we are doing what we can to balance all the constituencies.

Much of the guidance already published remains in place, but we have eased some guidelines. As our camps are not fully vaccinated populations, we fall under the partially vaccinated camps category, which is different from the announcements put out for the general public.

In the end, we ask that you are mindful of the Scout Oath and Law and that everyone treats each other with respect and kindness that the Oath and Law describes.

As you all know, California has made significant movement to reopen the state. As of June 15, 2021, the Blueprint for a Safer Economy (colored tier system) and most business restrictions were lifted.

PLEASE NOTE, NOT ALL RESTRICTIONS AND REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO COVID-19 HAVE BEEN LIFTED, SPECIFICALLY:

1. As an employer, the Council is still subject to Cal/OSHA's *COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards*.
2. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) *Guidance for Overnight Camps* is in effect through September 2021.
3. The previous two points require following the latest version of the CDPH *Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings*.
4. The public health departments of individual counties (Alameda, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Mendocino, Sonoma, and Tuolumne) have specific requirements for our operations.

In our council and camp operations, such as summer camps, we are required to follow state and county requirements, we need to have all staff, volunteers, and participants follow the

procedures we have in place. If you have any questions or issues with our procedures, please contact us at safety@ggacbsa.org and/or camping@ggacbsa.org.

Specific Guidelines

Vaccination Status and Testing Requirements (Leader's Guide Pages 13, 20-21)—We still recommend individuals are fully vaccinated where possible. Fully vaccinated is defined by the California Department of Public Health as having received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and two weeks having elapsed. This definition is to ensure maximum immunity.

If vaccination is not possible or the above criteria cannot be met due to timing, we will continue to require a negative COVID test from either PCR-based (72 hours) or Antigen-based (Rapid Test, 24 hours).

Masking Indoors (Leader's Guide Pages 20-21)—With mixed vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, masking will continue to be required indoors, except when actively eating and drinking (i.e., dining halls). The food service staff will continue to wear masks when serving food.

Masking Outdoors (Leader's Guide Pages 20-21)—With mixed vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, when social distancing is possible or within an individual Troop's campsite, masking is not required. When social distancing is not possible, masking is required with mixed populations.

Tenting (Leader's Guide Page 21)—The initial tenting requirements apply (recommend single tenting; if buddied up, must sleep head-to-toe, etc.) Each unit needs to provide a quarantine tent, in the event of a COVID case. We are also requiring that tent buddies are not of mixed vaccination status (i.e., both tent buddies must be either vaccinated or unvaccinated).

Dining Hall / Food Service (Leader's Guide Page 14)—Each camp's Dining Hall will be operating as normal, but with 50% indoor seating capacity and the balance seated outdoors.

Personal Hygiene—Now more than ever, personal hygiene is of great importance. While we, as leaders, chuckle about the Tenderfoot Scout caked with a layer of dirt, we strongly exhort leaders to have their Scouts bathe with soap and water regularly. Admittance to ALL MEALS regardless of indoor or outdoor seating will continue to require clean hands (washed with soap and water) followed by sanitization. Many of the normal maladies, such as Norovirus, that we encounter at camp are mimicked by COVID-19 early on.

Mental Health—We are abundantly aware that we have been confined to our homes for much of the past 18 months due to the pandemic. Our youth have not been away from home for extended periods, and as a result, we fully anticipate an increase in homesickness that may manifest in ways different than in years past. We ask that Adult Leaders prepare themselves for this potential reality and take the time with your Scouts to help them through these challenges.