



Dear Leaders, Adult Members, Rovers, Parents, Staff and Employees,  
AS AT 5pm 18 MARCH 2020

Further to our advice of 13 March and in line with the Prime Minister's address to the Nation this morning, we can now provide our best understanding for Scouting for the coming months. This advice (of course) is current as at today and will probably change many times over the next few months. With this in mind, and to conform with the current expert 'Health' advice, Scouts SA offers the following:

The singular source we use for our day to day advice on the changing situation is the Federal Health Department Website at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/coronavirus-update-at-a-glance> . This website provides constant updates and is the most current and authoritative source of information for COVID-19 developments.

The Department has also issued its latest (updated 16 March) FAQ Information Sheet at: [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions\\_3.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions_3.pdf)

The information sheet updated on 16 March offers the FAQ: **"What about community sports and activities?"** The answer given is "Major sporting events and community activities may be postponed or cancelled depending on the size of the event and the expected number of attendees. **You can continue to engage in smaller community sports and activities that are part of your daily life.**" Our weekly Section activities are 'smaller community activities'.

Our plan is to continue to deliver 'Scouting' in the fullest way possible, until advice by the Department of Health changes. We have heard from our Prime Minister and Premier today that any action we take now – we should be prepared to have in place for the next six months. Schools (for now) are to remain open and students must attend unless unwell. This is a part of the strategic aim to minimise spread across our total population.

To play our community part, we intend to continue to deliver our Scout programs in the fullest way possible for the longest period allowed. In doing so, we all understand that activities may have to be re-worked/ re-structured or, delivered in a different way. In doing this we cannot have outdoor gatherings of over 500 people *at the one site* or indoor gatherings of over 100 people (with distancing of 1.5m). For example, Gang Show could change its program delivery by splitting into smaller groups and modifying the outcome to the auditions and rehearsals, achieving the objectives without culminating in a full theatre performance. This program restructure, although seemingly less-than-optimal, is a perfect example of Plan>Do>Review in action.

Further, there could be a time where restrictions mean that we can no longer deliver the program face-to-face. We are currently devising new ways to continue our program without the need for direct contact. We ask all Leaders now to prepare for this possibility. That is to think of new and exciting ways to engage our parents and our youth members. We are working on this now, and your ideas are more than welcome through the SA Branch Scouting chain.

At this stage, the Health direction is that we are able to meet in groups of less-than-100. At this time, our Scout Hall operations may proceed as usual. Some parts of our organisation have already taken more restrictive measures than those outlined in this advice. We ask all Groups and Sections to contact their up-line Commissioners before they take this action (for the reasons above).

Scouts SA is also preparing contingency plans for the Scout Recycling Business; Woodhouse and the Scout Outdoor Centre as well as the Branch HQ. The same innovation and continuity is required for our businesses to ensure that we emerge from this crisis in the best possible position.

Scouts SA also provides the following specific advice for Scouting:

- **Constantly monitor** the website above and take the necessary precautions advised.
- **The risk** of COVID-19 presents when you have come into contact from someone already diagnosed with the virus, or, come into contact with someone who has recently returned from overseas AND you are experiencing the symptoms.
- **Use common-sense:** If you, a parent, child or staff member in Scouting has been isolated for any reason (school closure; self-isolated; or actually diagnosed) do not attend or help at Scouts, or come into work.
- **If you are in doubt** about what to do, phone the new National Hotline on 1800 020 080.
- **If you have returned from Overseas you now must self-isolate for at least 14 days** before attending any Scout activity or engage with other Scout members or the general public. This is also the case if you have been in close contact with a person who has contracted Coronavirus.
- **Symptoms** may include fever, dry cough, shortness of breath, fatigue and sore throat. People with these symptoms AND who have travelled overseas, or have had close contact with a confirmed case should see a doctor; visit a screening centre or attend a hospital and call ahead so they can prepare.
- **If any member is diagnosed with CoronaVirus, this is to be reported to the Branch HQ in the quickest way possible (direct telephone in working hours (08) 8130 6000, or, the incident report line on (08) 8378 2412).**

**How can I help prevent the spread** of Coronavirus? You should wash your hands frequently with soap and water, before and after eating, and after going to the toilet. You should cover your cough and sneeze, dispose of tissues and use alcohol-based hand sanitiser (if you have it), practice social distancing by keeping 1.5m away from other people and stay away if unwell. This link provides access to a **'Stop the Spread'** poster that you may want to display in your Scout Halls.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-print-ads-simple-steps-to-stop-the-spread>

The Scouts SA Branch Executive Committee; the Chief Commissioner and the CEO are coordinating our response to this global challenge which impacts on all of us. We are available at the HQ or through the Scout structure to provide guidance as you need. We will be closely monitoring these changing circumstances and will issue our next advice as new information and direction is received.

Please contact us if you are in doubt as to what to do, or how to react. Common sense is the key.

CEO and Chief Commissioner  
Scouts SA