

GSWNY COVID-19 Guidance FAQs 12-8-20

Please see updates in yellow.

Q1: My usual meeting space is not currently available, or I'm concerned I won't have access to my usual troop meeting place in the fall.

A1: If you are interested in meeting in-person now and your meeting place is not available, we encourage you to utilize outdoor public spaces such as local parks, and GSWNY properties are currently available for bookings on weekends, and some of our properties are available for troop meetings. Please contact customercare@gswny.org if you are interested in booking a GSWNY property.

For the fall, we will be working with service units to identify available meeting places, as well as the potential to expand our utilization of GSWNY service centers and properties. We await the decisions from school districts as to whether they will be available as meeting spaces.

In the meanwhile, we encourage you to connect with your meeting place to determine their plans. You may share the GSWNY COVID-19 guidelines with them so they may see the steps Girl Scouts is taking to keep their meeting places safe.

Q2: If we can maintain social distance (6+ feet), do we have to wear masks? Do we have to wear masks if we are outside?

A2: Yes, our guidelines state that girls and adults must wear masks in addition to social distancing (6+ feet). These guidelines apply in both indoor and outdoor settings.

An exception is when girls and adults may be eating or drinking. Follow social distancing and hygiene practices to create a safe environment in these cases.

Q3: Does GSWNY offer a medical exemption for masks?

A3: Girls and adults who identify a medical exemption can contact customercare@gswny.org to request a reasonable accommodation.

Q4: What should members do about activities/events planned after December 31?

A4: Any meetings or activities after December 31 will be re-evaluated by mid-December. All decisions will be based on NYS guidance, regulation and the data presented. We will host another webinar this fall once those updates have been established. Please stay tuned to Member Essentials every Tuesday for any further announcements.

Q5: What is the baseline temperature that is considered a fever?

A5: NYS school guidelines updated that any temperature 100 degrees and over should result in members (girl & adults) staying home and not attending any Girl Scout activities.

Q6: Can we host any meeting or activity at our home?

A6: All Girl Scout activities are prohibited from being facilitated in and at the home, whether inside or in a yard. In an effort to continue to mitigate the risk of the virus, and to ensure girl safety, no home in-person programs or meetings are allowed.

Q7: Are funds available to assist troops in purchasing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for my Girl Scout Troop?

A7: Yes, PPE purchases are a legitimate troop expense and troops can either use troop funds if available, and GSWNY will also provide financial assistance as this is a new and unexpected necessary expense for troops. In addition, Troop Leaders can request funding to purchase related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at up to \$100 per troop for reimbursement (Example: thermometers, disposable facemasks, disinfectant, hand sanitizer/solution). Troops larger than 12 members may require more supplies and can note the additions on the form for review.

Q8: Can you provide guidance on media photos?

A8: Media Guidelines: we understand that families and troops want to take photos to document girls' participation in Girl Scouting and that photos are treasured memories, and also can showcase girls' accomplishments.

Due to the risk of COVID-19, all photos must comply with the above guidelines including wearing masks and social distancing. GSWNY reserves the right to refrain from posting any photos that do not align with safety guidelines, and also remove public photos, including photos submitted by troops and families to local media.

Girls can be documented without masks if they are participating at home, or with members of her family. Girls in photos with other non-family members of the troop must be wearing a mask and social distancing in accordance with GSWNY COVID-19 guidelines.

Q9: Are there any exceptions?

A9: One exception is during a ceremony, if a family wishes for a girl to remove her mask for a photo, that is acceptable as long as she is socially distanced from others, and the photo must be of the girl alone, or with family members, and that this is only for a minimal amount of time to take the photo.

Q10: How will in-person programs be affected if a WNY county is placed in the yellow zone by NYS?

A10: Impacts to in-person programs are applied across the council for the yellow zone. On 11-10-20, GSWNY applied the yellow zone restrictions for Erie and Monroe counties across the council and this will continue until further notice. In the yellow zone, in-person activities can still be held, but the gathering size is limited to a maximum of 25 people.

Q11: How will in-person programs be affected if a WNY county is placed in the orange or red zone by NYS?

A11: Restrictions for the orange or red zone will be applied on a county by county basis. If parts of the county are designated orange or red, the restrictions will apply across the entire county.

Orange zone:

In the orange zone, in-person programs and activities in the affected county can still occur, but the gathering size is limited to a maximum of 10 people.

Red zone:

In the red zone, in-person programs and activities in the affected county will be suspended.

For example: If parts of Erie County are placed into the red zone, any in-person program or activity in all of Erie County cannot happen in person.

In this case, for example, if Erie County is affected:

- *a girl or adult residing in Erie County could not participate in any in-person activities. They could not travel to another county to participate either.*
- *a girl or adult residing in a non-affected county, for example, Wyoming County, could not travel into Erie County to attend a program.*

- **Girls in non-affected counties, for example Wyoming or Livingston counties, could continue to participate in-person in non-affected counties.**

Q12: Will the Fall Product Delivery operate as planned if WNY counties are placed in the orange zone?

A12: At this time, all curbside and retail order pickup processes have not changed and will remain unaffected. Fall Product Delivery is still on schedule for 11/21/20. Please review GSWNY Delivery protocol [here](#) ensuring proper safety measures are in place and pickups are scheduled 15 minutes apart allowing for proper cleaning and sanitation. Scheduling resource [here](#). The scheduled Product Program delivery is allowed to be permitted in the orange zone.

Q12: Will curbside retail change if WNY counties are placed in the orange zone?

A12: Currently, curbside retail would be permitted to continue in the orange zone.

Q13: Can troop leaders and volunteers arrange contactless delivery/pick-up of program supplies for girls/families in the orange zone?

A13: Yes, as long as they follow all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing.

Please Note: Details regarding red zone are not currently released but we continue to monitor NYS guidelines and we expect to be able to offer curbside retail and delivery.

Thank you for all that you do, and please contact Customer Care if you have any questions: customercare@gswny.org or call 1-888-837-6410. In an emergency, please call 1-800-882-9268.