



OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Safety Plan for SCOUTS South Africa Lockdown Level 4

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This is a living document and as regulations are issued by the South Africa Government, this document will be adapted. The latest version of the document will be on our website <https://www.scouts.org.za/members/covid-19-info-for-members/>

1. Policy Statement

SCOUTS South Africa will respond to COVID-19 using the Level framework as released by the President. Our response will be done per Level at a National, Regional, District, and Group level for all Adult and Youth Members.

SCOUTS South Africa (SSA) is a values-based organisation that needs to set an example by emphasising a sense of responsibility towards the community and society. We have noted that just because we are theoretically allowed to meet in groups of a size subject to the level in effect doesn't mean that this would be in the best interest of our membership. SSA and its members have an obligation to curb the spread of the virus and keep ourselves and our fellow South Africans safe. Our current circumstance therefore provides us all with an opportunity to learn that if social distancing is practised strictly in a "learning by doing" environment, we could return to some form of normality in the near future. Until an approved vaccine has been approved and administered, social distancing is here to stay and we need to embrace it and lead by example.

Not everyone is ready to start interacting in person. This could be because they have a family member who is at high risk of contracting COVID-19 or it may be because they have lost someone to the virus. It could also simply be that they prefer to be cautious. All of those reasons are okay and understandable. Any activity that falls under this reopening will be on an "option to participate" basis. No one will be forced or pressured to participate until they are ready and comfortable to do so. We all approach this situation from different contexts and we need to accommodate and accept that. One of the key factors we can play is helping to educate people and working with them to ease them back into this as safely and responsibly as we can.

We look forward to your co-operation according to these rules and regulations so that we can continue to serve you, educate you and work with you through these difficult circumstances.

An email covid@scouts.org.za has been created. This email can be used to seek clarification of the regulations or advice. This email is not to be used for authorisation of activities. The decision-making powers for activities are spelled out in this document. If you are not satisfied with a decision made, you may appeal to the next-in-line Scouter.

2. Purpose

This document is intended to provide the guidance to members to implement Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policies and procedures to support the Guidelines as set out by the SA Government.

As the new normal sets in at Scout Groups, we urge that all persons within the Groups be informed of the policies and act according to the procedures as laid out by the National OHS Committee.

3. Definitions

SSA

SCOUTS South Africa

Alert Level

The wording used by the government to define the lifting of restrictions in various sectors in terms of the Disaster Management act.

COVID-19 / SARS-CoV2	Refers to the strain of the novel Coronavirus being spread at a rapid rate among humans through the air in the form of droplets causing the breakdown of the respiratory systems in some persons, and which may be asymptomatic in others.
COVID-19 Compliance Officer	A member appointed by either the National organisation, Regions, Districts or Groups to oversee the carrying out and implementation of policies and procedures of the COVID response strategies. All institutions must have such a person appointed as per Chapter 3, Section 6 of the Risk Adjusted strategy of the Disaster Management Act, 2002.
MANCO	The highest management structure of SSA as reflected in the SSA Organogram.
Lockdown	A disaster management technique implemented by the National Government to minimise the spread of the novel Coronavirus.
Phase	This refers to the stages of varying levels of lockdown in terms of the company strategy aligned with governmental procedures.
Social Distancing	The practise whereby any persons need to be two meters (2m) from another to ensure the reduced transmission of the novel coronavirus.
Unit Compliance Officer	A warranted scouter appointed in terms of clause 15 below to take responsibility for the meetings and other activities of a unit of a Scout Group. For government Covid-19 regulations such person will be considered to be a "Compliance Officer".

4. Applies To

The policy targets the following groups:

- All Groups, Districts, Regions and National Levels.
- All Adult and Youth Members, visitors and parents involved in SSA activities.

5. Policy Details

This policy is subject to the provisions of any regulations as issued by the National Covid-19 Command Council, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and relevant government departments and includes:

- Gazette 43240 of 20 April 2020.
- Gazette 43258 of 29 April 2020.
- Gazette 43364 of 28 May 2020.
- Gazette 43476 of 25 June 2020.
- Gazette 43521 of 12 July 2020.
- Gazette 43577 of 31 July 2020.
- Gazette 43620 of 17 August 2020.
- Gazette 43725 of 18 September 2020.
- Gazette 43996 of 14 December 2020.
- Gazette 43997 of 15 December 2020.
- Gazette 44044 of 29 December 2020.
- Gazette 11223 of 11 January 2021

- Gazette 44071 of 15 January 2021.
- Gazette 11230 of 1 February 2021
- Gazette 44154 of 12 February 2021
- Gazette 11239 of 13 February 2021
- Gazette 44201 of 28 February 2021
- Gazette 44642 of 30 May 2021
- Gazette 44715 of 15 June 2021
- Gazette 44772 of 27 June 2021

6. The Key principles to limit the spread of Covid-19

We are working on the concept of prevention through the three D's – Dosage, Distance and Dispersion. If in doubt about an activity or action, refer back to the 3D's and work through the logic of them. For the next few weeks in Level 4 there will be no face-to-face Scout activities, but we ask that you practise the following when you leave your residence:

- **Dosage** - All Adult and Youth Members are to wear facemasks when leaving their residences. These will be worn at all times. Ensure that masks are disposed of daily (if they are disposable) and rewashed daily (if they are re-washable). To become infected, you need to have contact with a minimum dose, which takes time and exposure to people with the virus. The longer you are exposed to an infectious person, the more people you are exposed to, and the fewer barriers (like cloth masks) between you, the more likely you are to be exposed to the virus. So, we are going to keep it short – limiting the time spent with other people to minimise the exposure to possible infection. We also require all participants to wear masks and ensure the proper sanitising/washing of hands takes place before and after activities.
- **Distance** – Strict social distancing should be practiced. This means no physical contact (e.g. shaking hands) and keeping a distance of 2m between people. The further you are from someone, the less likely you are to be infected by them or to breathe in particles they have breathed out. Therefore, all activities should respect social distancing – at least 2m distancing at all times without any close physical contact. Added to this is the recording and tracking of all participants. In the event of an infection, we can then assist members to proactively seek medical attention.
- **Dispersal** – Activities in the outdoors are encouraged. Outdoor activities are obviously more enjoyable when the weather is warmer. SSA is of the opinion that indoor activities should be kept to an absolute minimum. Because smaller particles hang around in the air, the movement of air makes a really big difference. The particles disperse quickly if you are outside, particularly if there is a breeze or wind. We also know that sunlight breaks down the virus. As a result, small, enclosed spaces with closed windows are high risk, especially when they are crowded. We are going to handle this by staying out of confined spaces, ensuring good ventilation, and first prize, staying outdoors as much as possible.

7. The Fundamental Rules

No face-to-face Scout group meetings or activities may take place.

Groups are encouraged to use online facilities to run activities or to use WhatsApp to encourage Meerkats, Cubs and Scouts to do activities at home that can assist in achieving advancement and interest badges.

8. Occupancy Certificate for Scout offices

Each facility needs to display a certificate of occupancy, see link for the certificate here: https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Covid-19_CapacityComplianceCertificate-1.pdf.

Occupancy for the entire facility, as well as for each building and outdoor space needs to be specified.

Occupation is calculated as follows:

- Full capacity = 1sqm/person
- Seating capacity = 4sqm/person
- Moving capacity = 9sqm/person

Example:

Space of 90sqm

- Full capacity = 90 people
- Seating capacity = 22 people
- Moving capacity = 10 people

9. Campsites

A campsite is a recognised accommodation establishment and may therefore be opened in terms of the Government regulations, subject to the regulations as issued by the Department of Tourism (Department of Tourism Notice 452 of 2020).

The Warden of the campsite is the Compliance Officer and must ensure compliance with the Safety Plans for the property. If there is no Warden, the Campsite Committee Chairman will act as the Compliance Officer, alternatively the RC needs to appoint a Compliance Officer for the campsite.

The use of campsites and their amenities is set out in detail in the workplace plan for campsites, which can be found here: https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Workplace-plan-for-campsites_Level1_F.docx.

No campsite may open until it has adopted a suitable Safety Plan for the campsite in terms of the aforementioned workplace plan for campsites.

Campsite must issue invoices to all those using the campsite, to ensure it is classified as an accommodation facility.

10. What are the symptoms of Covid-19

The following are symptoms of COVID-19:

Fever, cough, sore throat, redness of eyes, shortness of breath, body aches, loss of smell or loss of taste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fatigue, weakness or tiredness.

If a participant displays any one of these symptoms, please see Section 23. "Medical emergencies" below.

11. Medical Emergencies

The following section is kept in the Safety Plan to be accessible to all members to refer back to.

What happens if a member comes into contact with a person suspected of being infected with Covid-19?

A "close contact" is currently defined as:

- A person having had face-to-face contact (≤ 1 metre) or in a closed space with a COVID-19 case for at least 15 minutes.
- This includes:
 - All persons living in the same household as a COVID-19 case
 - People working closely in the same environment as a COVID-19 case
 - Healthcare workers providing direct care for a COVID-19 case while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment

This means that if people follow the rules of 2m distance, wearing masks and remaining outdoors, nobody who attends an event will be considered a "close contact". It follows then that, if the rules are followed, and someone becomes ill or tests positive following an event, the other participants won't have to quarantine. According to guidelines they will simply have to monitor themselves for symptoms and get tested IF they become symptomatic (i.e. there is no need to panic and rush out to be tested - this should be actively discouraged).

It should be noted that if people are considered close contacts, they will need to quarantine for 14 days. Similarly, a person who is positive with mild symptoms must isolate for 14 days from the onset of symptoms.

When should people be tested?

The government has also issued guidelines regarding who needs to be tested. This is as follows:

- Anyone with an acute respiratory illness with sudden onset of at least one of the following:
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fever [$\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ (measured) or history of fever (subjective)]

We don't need members of the Scouting community rushing to get unnecessary tests.

12. Resources

Resources referred to in this policy:

- <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-move-level-5-lockdown-level-4>
- <https://www.gov.za/coronavirus/guidelines>
- <https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Always-Wear-a-Mask-COVID-19-Poster-v2.pdf>
- <https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Wash-Hands-Regularly-COVID-19-Poster.pdf>
- <https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/Keep-Your-Distance-COVID-19-Poster-v2.pdf>
- <https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/SSA-CORONA-AWARENESS-HALL-POSTERS-FINAL.pdf>