



March 12, 2020

## Update on the Coronavirus and Potential Impact on Programs

The California Inland Empire Council has received many calls from individuals asking how the Coronavirus or COVID-19, might impact our programs. We are monitoring the situation closely and are prepared to act quickly should the situation warrant action.

While officials say the health risk to the general public in California from Novel Coronavirus remains low, the situation is evolving, and our Council is closely monitoring developments. Should Public Health authorities recommend additional preventative measures, we would act accordingly. Please refer to the council or district websites for updates on postponement or cancellation of upcoming events, activities, or meetings in your local area. Above all, we are committed to protecting youth, volunteers and staff in environments that are safe.

### Our Council's Response: A Scout is Clean

We encourage everyone attending our properties and programs to follow the California Department of Public Health recommendations to prevent the spread of all respiratory viruses:

- **Stay home when you feel sick.**
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and wash your hands before and after doing so.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve/elbow, not your hands.**
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Do not share personal items such as cups, water bottles, eating utensils, etc.
- Avoid shaking hands.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.** If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

**If you have a fever, cough, or other symptoms associated with COVID-19, or if you believe you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you should not attend a Scouting activity/event. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.**

### Participation in Scouting activities, meetings and fundraisers: A Scout is Prepared

Officials at the California Department of Public Health announced new recommendations late Wednesday night to curtail the spread of COVID-19: large gatherings should be postponed or canceled across the state until at least the end of March.

The California Inland Empire Council, including all of our properties, continues to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation. Based on this new information, the Council will enforce the following guidelines effective immediately:

- Council and District activities of 250 or more will be postponed and rescheduled for dates after March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Smaller events can proceed only if organizers can implement social distancing of 6 feet per person. If the social distance cannot be accommodated, meetings/activities must be postponed or cancelled. The use of conference calls is highly recommended. Advisers to District and Council meetings will contact their committees with instructions for meetings scheduled this month.

**Prepared. For Life.™**



- Roundtables will continue for March. Social Distancing will be enforced, and we strongly request any individual who feels sick to not attend.
- Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people while also following social distancing guidelines.
- Some charter partners and unit meeting locations have blocked access to their facilities for the time being. Please contact your location to verify access and timeline. The information from the State recommends limiting access until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Should your unit be blocked, we recommend that families continue to use their handbooks at home to continue the program and update their leaders on their progress.

Additional Resources:

This remains an evolving situation, and there is still a lot we don't know, including how the Inland Empire will be impacted. Our Council will post new information on our website and social media as it becomes available. In addition, please connect with these resources:

#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

- [Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives](#)
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs](#)

#### **Boy Scouts of America**

- [Communicable Disease Prevention Safety Moment](#)
- [Local Council Membership/Participation Guidelines Regarding Communicable Diseases](#)
- [Prevention of Communicable Diseases in Scouting: Recommendations for Unit and Council Event Leaders](#)
- [Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#)

#### **Links for up-to-date information regarding the Novel Coronavirus:**

- The California Department of Public Health [website here](#)
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [website here](#)

We are all responsible for the prevention of communicable diseases, and your proactive steps are a critical component. Thank you for doing your part. Keep in mind Scouting's guiding principles regarding communicable diseases include:

- The responsibility for management of a medical condition(s) lies with the individual or the individual's parent or guardian. See the BSA Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist for guidance.
- Local Scouting units/chartered organizations determine their own membership and participation.

Respectfully,



Matt Myers  
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California Inland Empire Council