

Return to In-Person Guiding

Update October 5, 2020

The GGC Return to In-Person Guiding protocols were created to provide a framework for Guiders, girls, members and families to return to in-person activities

The following information was considered when drafting these guidelines:

- ★ Provincial return to school plans
- ★ Provincial day care and day camp guidelines
- ★ Ministries of Public Health
- ★ The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) [Updated COVID-19: Recommendations for School Reopening](#)
- ★ Other published scientific opinions, studies and reviews

These recommendations rely on current scientific and public health understanding that COVID-19 transmission is less likely to occur outdoors, and that masks and physical distancing are effective in decreasing the rate of transmission.

Regional Approach

Across the country COVID-19 restrictions and public risk tolerance vary widely. These protocols are intended to provide a flexible framework that can be implemented regardless of unit location.



Although our GGC guidelines may be more restrictive than many national, provincial, or city recommendations, they are not meant to take the place of any local or federal government guidelines that may ask you to not gather in person. In these instances, GGC Requires strict compliance with regional restrictions and orders you may be subject to.

Stages

The Return to In-Person Guiding stages are grouped in broad categories, depending on the type of activities that are allowed in each stage.





Stages may be broken down into two or three different levels (for example, Outdoor 1, 2 and 3). These levels allow for different provinces or regions of the country to operate using protocols that are most in line with their public health guidelines.

Public Health guidelines will take precedence over Girl Guides of Canada protocols. No unit may operate activities that violate a public health order or guidelines for their location.

We anticipate that all provinces will be operating in the Outdoor Stage as of September 1.

Some provinces may be moved to the Indoor Stage during the fall if the COVID-19 situation allows. No province will move to the Indoor Stage prior to mid-October. Even when indoor activities are permitted, outdoor activities will be prioritized for the duration of the fall.

How Will I Know What Stage My Unit Is In?

The national office will make decisions about the stage that each province/region is in. These decisions will be communicated on an ongoing basis via two methods from the national office.

Online: each provincial/regional stage will be posted on [Member Zone](#) and [GirlGuides.ca](#), for both Guiders and families to see.

Email: an email will be sent to each unit's Contact Guider when or if a region's stage changes.

When possible, units will be given two weeks' notice of a change to their provincial/regional stage. This will allow units to prepare to run activities under new protocols.

In some circumstances a unit may have to move to a more restrictive stage quickly, for example if their province enters a lockdown period.

How and When Are These Guidelines Reviewed?

The stages that each province or region is operating under will be re-evaluated on an ongoing basis throughout the Guiding year. Provincial Commissioners and staff will provide input on changes on a quarterly basis. The protocols for each stage will be re-evaluated as the COVID-19 pandemic continues and more data becomes available.





What Do I Do If Someone Tests Positive or Is Told To Self-Isolate?

All girls, Guiders and/or adult volunteers MAY NOT attend in-person activities if:

- ★ They or a close contact test positive for COVID-19
- ★ They or a close contact is told to self-isolate by Public Health
- ★ They or a close contact are awaiting COVID-19 test results

An individual may return to in-person activities in accordance with the guidelines provided by their local Public Health Unit.

For up-to-date information on how to respond to common COVID-19 scenarios please refer to our [Member FAQs on Member Zone](#).

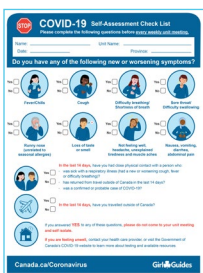
Additional Considerations for Vulnerable Populations

If girls or Guiders are part of a vulnerable population, they should be encouraged to speak with their health care provider about best practices for their individual health needs.

Units should implement any additional mitigation steps they deem necessary to support inclusion for girls and Guiders in the unit.

Virtual and anytime Guiding are great options for Guiders and girls who are isolating or who are unable to attend meetings.

Protocols Required in All Stages



Self-Assessment and Attendance

No one may attend an in-person activity if they are sick and/or present symptoms similar to COVID-19.

All girls, Guiders, volunteers and adult members attending activities are required to complete [GGC's COVID-19 self-assessment](#) prior to each in-person activity.

Guiders will confirm that the girl/family has completed the self-assessment prior to each in-person activity when the girl is dropped off. Anyone who has not completed the self-assessment or had the self-assessment indicate that they need to be tested or to self-isolate, WILL NOT be able to attend in-person activities.



Guiders will maintain an attendance list that will include completion of all self-assessments and which pod, if any, a girl was in from the previous meeting. Guiders will retain this sheet with the rest of their unit paperwork.

The [self-assessment checklist and attendance form are available on Member Zone.](#)

Hand Hygiene



All girls, Guiders, volunteers and families must be provided with information about proper hand hygiene. Handwashing or hand sanitizing must be available for the duration of the event/meeting. All participants must wash or sanitize their hands at minimum upon arrival at the unit meeting, prior to leaving the meeting, before and after eating or drinking, before and after touching their face and after using the washroom.

Guiders should make sure they are using a hand sanitizer that is on the [Government of Canada approved hand sanitizer list.](#)

A [hand hygiene resource is available on Member Zone.](#)



Cleaning

Commonly used hard surfaces such as light switches, tables, door handles etc. should be wiped down at the beginning and end of each in-person meeting. Guiders should make sure they are using a disinfectant that is on the [Government of Canada approved disinfectant list.](#) Shared equipment like markers or balls should also be wiped down before and after use.

In-Person Cookie Selling and Fundraising

In-person cookie selling and other in-person fundraising may take place as long as they meet the protocols for the Stage that the unit is in. For example, selling cookies in outdoor locations and door-to-door, is permitted in the Outdoor stage, while selling cookies in indoor locations is permitted in Indoor stage.

Detailed information about cookie selling will be released prior to the fall cookie campaign.



Stage Specific Protocols

Virtual & Anytime Guiding



Permitted Activities

Virtual and Anytime Guiding is permitted. No in-person activities are permitted.



Outdoor 1

Outdoor Day, Virtual & Anytime Guiding



Permitted Activities

Only green and yellow activities are permitted.
No overnight activities or travel may take place. No singing is allowed.

Physical Distancing
Everyone physically distances 2m.

Masks
Required for everyone.

Pods
Not required.

Gathering Size
Maximum 1 unit.

Meeting Spaces
Outdoors only. May include tent/picnic shelter with 2+ sides open for maximum ventilation. May be held in member yards or in shared outdoor spaces such as apartment/condo green spaces provided appropriate approval is obtained.

Drop Off & Pick Up
Must occur **outside**. Adults must physically distance from other adults. When possible only one adult from each household should drop off girls at a meeting and no extra people should attend drop off/pick up

Food and Drink
Sharing food is not permitted. Girls and Guiders can bring their own food and water to meetings. Guiders can provide individually-packaged, commercially packaged or store-bought food (for example, granola bars, Halloween candy, bags of chips/pretzels, etc.). Hands must be washed or sanitized before and after distributing food, and before and after eating or drinking.

Washrooms
Encourage families to use the washroom prior to activity. Limit capacity to washroom to allow for physical distancing. Recommendation: 1 person for every 2 toilets (exception made for girls who require support person to use washroom).



Outdoor 2

Outdoor Day, Virtual & Anytime Guiding



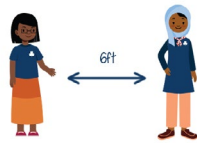
Permitted Activities

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No overnight activities or travel may take place. No singing is allowed.

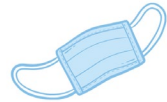
Physical Distancing

Everyone physically distances.



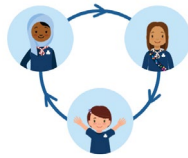
Masks

Adults required to wear masks. Girls may wear masks.



Pods

Not required.



Gathering Size

Maximum 1 unit.



Meeting Spaces

Outdoors only.

May include tent/picnic shelter with 2+ sides open for maximum ventilation.

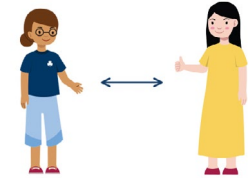


May be held in member yards or in shared outdoor spaces such as apartment/condo green spaces provided appropriate approval is obtained.

Drop Off & Pick Up

Must occur **outside**.

Adults must physically distance from other adults and girls.



When possible only one adult from each household should drop off girls at a meeting and no extra people should attend drop off/pick up.

Food and Drink

Sharing food is not permitted. Girls and Guiders can bring their own food and water to meetings. Guiders can provide individually-packaged, commercially packaged or store-bought food (for example, granola bars, Halloween candy, bags of chips/pretzels, etc.). Hands must be washed or sanitized before and after distributing food, and before and after eating or drinking.



Washrooms

Encourage families to use the washroom prior to activity. Limit capacity to washroom to allow for physical distancing.



Recommendation: 1 person for every 2 toilets (exception made for girls who require support person to use washroom).



Indoor 1

Indoor 1, Outdoor 2, Virtual & Anytime Guiding – Day Activities Only



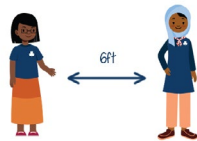
Permitted Activities

Only green and yellow activities are permitted.

No overnight activities or travel may take place. No singing is allowed.

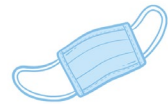
Physical Distancing

Everyone physically distances.



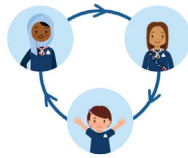
Masks

Everyone wears masks.



Pods

Not required.



Gathering Size

Maximum 1 unit.

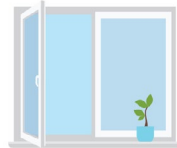


Meeting Spaces

Outdoor meeting spaces are preferred.

Indoor meeting space must fall within provincial and regional health authorities' guidelines.

Larger meeting spaces with good ventilation such as the ability to open windows are preferred.

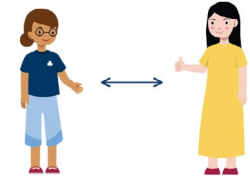


Drop Off & Pick Up

Must occur **outside**.

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Food and Drink

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Washrooms

Encourage families to use the washroom prior to activity. Limit capacity to washroom to allow for physical distancing.

Recommendation: 1 person for every 2 toilets (exception made for girls who require support person to use washroom).





Indoor 2

Indoor 2, Outdoor 2, Virtual & Anytime Guiding – Day Activities Only



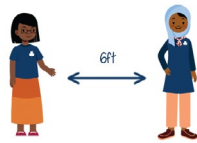
Permitted Activities

Only green and yellow activities are permitted.

No overnight activities or travel may take place. No singing is allowed.

Physical Distancing

Everyone physically distances, except within pods.



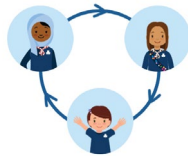
Masks

Adults required to wear masks.
Girls may wear masks.



Pods

Girls are in pods of 8 or less. Pods physically distance from each other.



Gathering Size

Maximum 1 unit.

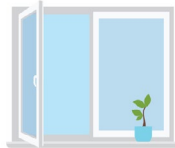


Meeting Spaces

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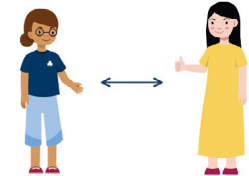


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