

## FINAL POLICY UPDATE • DISTRIBUTED MAY 1, 2021

A separate policy sheet for Scouts and parents is being sent to you in this email. That document **must** be distributed to all Scouts attending camp, as well as their parents.

# 2021 COVID-19 Policies for Unit Leaders

THIS INFORMATION IS FOR UNIT LEADERS. THIS IS THE FINAL POLICY STATEMENT. NO ADDITIONAL CHANGES ARE ANTICIPATED..

Dear Scout Leaders,

Camp Geiger was one of the few Scout camps in the nation to open last summer. Our COVID mitigation program was successful and we were able to complete the camping season without any known cases of COVID-19 at camp. We have learned a great deal in the year that has transpired. Here are some things we now know:

- The Scout age population is, generally speaking, unlikely to develop serious illness even if they contract the virus.
- Older individuals and/or those with significant co-morbidities who contract the virus may develop serious, life-threatening or even terminal disease.
- We now have a vaccine. Adults over the age of 65 will be required to have the vaccine. Adults of any age with the specified co-morbidities must have the vaccine. The only exception to this policy will be a statement by a physician or nurse practitioner that specifies that for the patient, the vaccine is contraindicated, or that vaccine risk outweighs potential benefits.

Since the country has had more than a year of experience with this virus and has a greater understanding of its behavior and impact, we already know that camp participation will be considerably greater this year. *We have been able to relax some policies, but certainly not all of them.* **This update reflects changes in policy since the revised policy sheet you received on April 1, 2021,** and replaces all previous guidance. **This is our final plan.**

Yours in Scouting,



Timothy P. Murphy, M.D.  
Council Supervising Physician (1998-2021)

### PRE-CAMP POLICIES FOR 2021

All Scouts and Leaders must present a **current year** BSA Health and Medical form with parts A, B, and C complete with required signatures.

No Scout or Leader with a current COVID-19 infection may attend camp.

No Scout or Leader who has had a COVID-19 infection within the three weeks prior to camp may attend without lab or medical office documentation of a negative COVID-19 PCR test, attached to the medical form. A COVID-19 vaccine will be required of all **Leaders / adults over the age of 65**. A COVID-19 vaccine will be required of any **adult**, 18 years of age and older, who has any of the co-morbidities listed here.

- **Morbid Obesity** (This is Medically Defined as Adult BMI > 40)
- **Diabetes**
- **COPD**
- **Heart Disease (Structural or Functional)**
- **Blood Disorders**
- **Kidney or Liver Disease**
- **Weakened Immune System or any Primary or Secondary Immunodeficiency.** (Secondary immunodeficiency includes such things as being immunosuppressed due to chemotherapy or being on transplant anti-rejection drugs.

**Anyone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine must attach a copy of his/her CDC "Covid Card" or other official documentation to his/her BSA Health and Medical Record, as proof of compliance with this year's council policy.** *New:* The only acceptable exception to this vaccine requirement is a **statement by the Leader's physician or APN that this vaccine is contraindicated** for this patient. Further delineation will not be required. All other adults are encouraged to get the vaccine to help contribute to herd immunity. If we achieve herd immunity by 2022, these restrictions will no longer be necessary. If we don't, we will simply have yet another restrictive year!

### IN-CAMP POLICIES FOR 2021

All Scouts and Leaders will present to camp with the **Same Day Symptom Checklist and Liability Waiver** properly completed and signed. The same day symptoms checklist is NOT to be completed *until the morning the Scout or Leader is leaving for camp*, and before the Scout joins up with other troop members.

All campers will be subjected to a symptom *recheck* upon arrival at the designated area. Once all screening has been performed, all Scouts and Leaders who have passed the screening will be issued a permanent wrist band which is to be placed on the wrist immediately and worn for the entire week. Once that has happened, Scouts are released into the main camp but remain sequestered within the camp boundaries for the duration of camp.

There will be **no outside visitors** at camp throughout the week, including the Wednesday Night Campfire and Thursday and Friday night Mic-O-Say ceremonies.

Individuals designated "Essential Program Personnel" who are not camping at Geiger but coming into camp for specific, limited program purposes will be screened at the gate and issued a temporary wrist band certifying they have passed screening. **The over 65 vaccine rule and co-morbidities vaccine rule applies to these individuals as well**, even though they are not staying at camp permanently.

**Adult (over age 18) Essential Program Personnel coming out to camp, regardless of duration, must submit to the Health Lodge the BSA Health and Medical form, parts A and B (but not C). Essential Program Personnel are subject to the same vaccine requirements as other Scout leaders, meaning that if a vaccine is required, such individuals must have received it, and must attach a copy of their COVID vaccine record to their Part A and B form. As with permanent adults, a letter of contraindication from a physician or APN will be accepted. This form is to be placed on file in the Health Lodge upon your first official visit to camp, and is valid for the summer.** For many, that first visit will be the **Tribal Feast**. You will still be screened at the gate each time you come to camp.

Morning in-campsite symptom checks will be done every morning and submitted by a leader at the parade ground before Scouts are admitted to the parade ground area to potentially mix with other Scouts. You may bring your own thermometer or you will be issued an infrared thermometer for your troop at check-in which is to be returned to your camp commissioner Saturday morning. If not returned, your troop's camp damage deposit will be withheld until it is replaced or paid for. Hand sanitizer stations will be present at multiple locations throughout the camp. Encourage your Scouts and Leaders to use them frequently. **Leaders must bring hand sanitizer for their troop campsite.**

Normal tent arrangements will be in place in all campsites, with two to a tent. A head-toe, toe-head arrangement for sleeping is recommended. Troops may opt for one person to a tent so long as the troop brings the extra tentage. Keep in mind the terrain of some campsites may not permit this to be easily done.

**Masks will not be required for campers at Camp Geiger this summer, as Andrew County has lifted its mask mandate. Any Scouts or adults, particularly those with any of the listed co-morbidities, and others who feel so inclined, are encouraged to wear a mask.** Your troop is your "cohort." You were screened as a troop, you camp as a troop, and in the dining hall you will sit and eat as a troop. There will be no "mixing" of troops in the dining hall, even if that means there are empty seats at a table. **We will return to "family style" meals in the dining hall. But staff will serve as waiters again, though, and will set tables and clean them, and procure seconds.** Staff members serving food and circulating among troop cohorts in the dining hall **will wear masks.** This allows troop members to remain in place at their tables and not mix with other cohorts in a close, indoor space.

If any Scout or Leader develops any symptoms suspicious for COVID-19 any time during the week, he or she is to go without delay to the Health Lodge for evaluation, minimizing contact with anyone while en route.

**This represents the final guidance for camp operation this summer with respect to COVID-19.**



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