

18/01/2022

Dear members,

No doubt you are aware of the current Covid 19 situation. Our thoughts are with anyone impacted by this at this time. Thank you for all of your time and commitment to Guiding in particular during these challenging times.

We have put together the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as we return for this year.

Can we have guiding face to face?

As per previous decision making on this matter, we are similar to interschool sports in that guides may attend the unit from multiple schools/suburbs/areas.

As per Department of Education advice, these sports are due to return in week 4 Monday 21st Feb: (Reference: <https://www.education.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/return-to-school-and-covid-safe-measures.pdf> Accessed 17/01/2022)

Therefore, we are asking leaders to not have any face-to-face guide meetings until this date.

We are aware that it is possible there are some units where guides only attend from one school. If this situation applies to your unit and you want to consider meeting face to face from the week of 14th Feb please submit to your region manager, SC Team (sc@girlguidessa.org.au) and Risk Adviser Golda (risk@girlguidessa.org.au) the name of your unit, the numbers in your unit and your plan to meet outdoors and these will be assessed on a case by case. Please provide this at least 1 week before you are intending to meet.

This is not compulsory but an option.

Options for the first four weeks are:

- Online state based zoom sessions in week 2 (please see information attached) These details have not been sent to parents/guardians yet and we are asking leaders to pass on as required
- Any additional online sessions the leaders may want to plan for weeks 1,2,3. If you don't have a Zoom account and would like to book a meeting on Zoom, please contact it@girlguidessa.org.au with the date and time of your meeting.
- Leaders may also choose to send activity packs during this time

What about meetings of adults e.g. District/Regions/Trefoil/Olave groups?

Meetings of adults should be online going forward to reduce face to face contact with others.

If this is not possible, the following considerations must be upheld:

- Meet outdoors as much as practicable
- Abide by SA Health requirements around social distancing wearing masks and following information below.

What do we need to consider when we return to face to face meetings?

- Meetings should be held outdoors as much as possible
- If indoors briefly as part of the meeting, maintain spacing and density requirements as per the SA Health Covid 19 Plan for the venue. These have been reissued on 12th Jan 2022.
- Masks should be worn at all times indoors where practicable. Follow SA Health advice around ages required to wear masks. As of 17/01/2022, unless an exemption was placed, these were required for adults, students in years 7-12 and strongly recommended for years 3-6.
- Contact tracing records must be maintained.

As a recap, the following measures are also in place:

- Using hand sanitizer and washing hands regularly
- Increasing ventilation such as opening windows at meeting places
- Cleaning commonly used surfaces
- Not attending activities if unwell
- Using QR Code Check ins

Can we return to camping, sleepovers, activity days and water activities?

Unfortunately these are not permitted at this time. As an estimate, sleepovers/camps and activity days may be able to return in March. This is in line with the possibility of school camps returning in March, based on the SA Government advice provided on 14/01/2022.

At the time of writing, we are seeking advice on water activities. At this stage, we are asking that water activities are not undertaken until March. If there is any update on this, we will advise members.

What considerations are in place for Broken Hill?

Broken Hill is under the auspice of Girl Guides SA and is just over the border in New South Wales. Broken Hill will follow the advice of NSW Government in relation to distancing requirements and meetings. If this impacts you, please contact their region manager team on brokenhill@girlguidessa.org.au.

What do I do if I am a close contact or diagnosed with Covid 19?

- Please follow SA Health advice
- If you are diagnosed with Covid 19 and may have been at a face to face guiding event, meeting or Girl Guides SA property please contact the CEO Kerrie on ceo@girlguidessa.org.au or via phone on 0417 872 389

What is the viewpoint on Covid 19 vaccination status before attending face to face activities?

A statement on this will be issued on 1st February 2022.

I'm struggling a bit with everything going on. Who can I turn to for help?

It is certainly a challenging time with constant changes, news and updates. Your guiding team of District/Region manager, State Commissioner team and those in the Management Team can be a good support. For further support, the following services are available:



- The [SA COVID-19 Mental Health Support Line](#) can be accessed by calling [1800 632 753](tel:1800632753) or through [online chat](#) and is available 8.00 am to 8.00 pm every day, including public holidays.
- Regional Access provides free professional telephone and online counselling 24/7 for people 15 years and older living or working in regional South Australia Call 1300 032 186 or visit: <https://saregionalaccess.org.au/>
- Kids Helpline Call [1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800) or visit www.kidshelpline.com.au/
Available 24 hours, seven days a week (including public holidays). Kids Helpline offers free online and phone counselling support 24/7 to children and young people aged 5 - 25 years of age.