Farewell Good Friend

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Rick Poirier, Director of Support Services. Rick has been an integral part of the Mayflower Council and the Boy Scouts of America for 38 years. He is an Eagle Scout, NESA Outstanding Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and past recipient of the Founder's Award among many other achievements and accolades.

Rick started his career with the BSA in 1982 as a District Executive in the Narragansett Council in Rhode Island. In 1986 he joined the legacy Old Colony Council as where he served in many positions including: Senior District Executive, Field Director, Camp Squanto Camp Director, Assistant Scout Executive and staff advisor to various council, regional and section committees over the past 35 years. In 2017 he was named the Director of Support Services for the Mayflower Council overseeing the council's camping operations and summer camp programs.

Rick has been a staple of the Scouting program for nearly four decades and his knowledge, skill, and passion for Scouting will be greatly missed! On behalf of the council executive board, staff, volunteers and Scouts of the Mayflower Council we wish Rick the best.

Please join us in wishing Rick well as he retires from professional service on December 1 by submitting a congratulatory letter to be put into a memory book for him as he opens a new chapter in his life. Letters may be emailed to farewell@mayflowerbsa.org or mailed to Mayflower Council, BSA 83 Cedar Street, Milford, MA 01757. Kindly submit by November 25.

Youth Protection Training Guide

Tips For Taking Youth Protection Training Online!

Learning Plan
Total time: 72 minutes

Description

The safety and well-being of our youth is of paramount importance to our organization, and integral to everything we do. We must continue our commitment to providing a safe and secure environment at all times for all our youth members. After completing all three modules and passing the exam, it may take up to 24 hours to see your certificate in My.Scouting.

Overview And Policies V2 – total time: 24m

This module will help you to recognize, respond and report the different kinds of abuse experienced by youth. Importantly, you will also know the barriers to abuse and how to utilize them to help create a safe space for youth. After completing all three modules and passing the exam, it may take up to 24 hours to see your certificate in My.Scouting.org

Sexual Abuse V2 – total time: 25m

Child sexual abuse is considered a public health concern by experts and health organizations. This module covers the different types of sexual abuse. After completing all three modules and passing the exam, it may take up to 24 hours to see your certificate in My.Scouting.org

Bullying V2 – total time: 13m

Bullying is any unwanted, aggressive behavior by an adult, a youth, or a group that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or is likely to be repeated multiple times. This module covers various forms of bullying. After completing all three modules and passing the exam, it may take up to 24 hours to see your certificate in My.Scouting.org

YPT Certification Test V2 – total time: 10m

This exam must be passed with a 75% or better passing criteria along with the other mandatory modules to receive credit for the YPT course. After completing all three modules and passing the exam, it may take up to 24 hours to see your certificate in My.Scouting.org

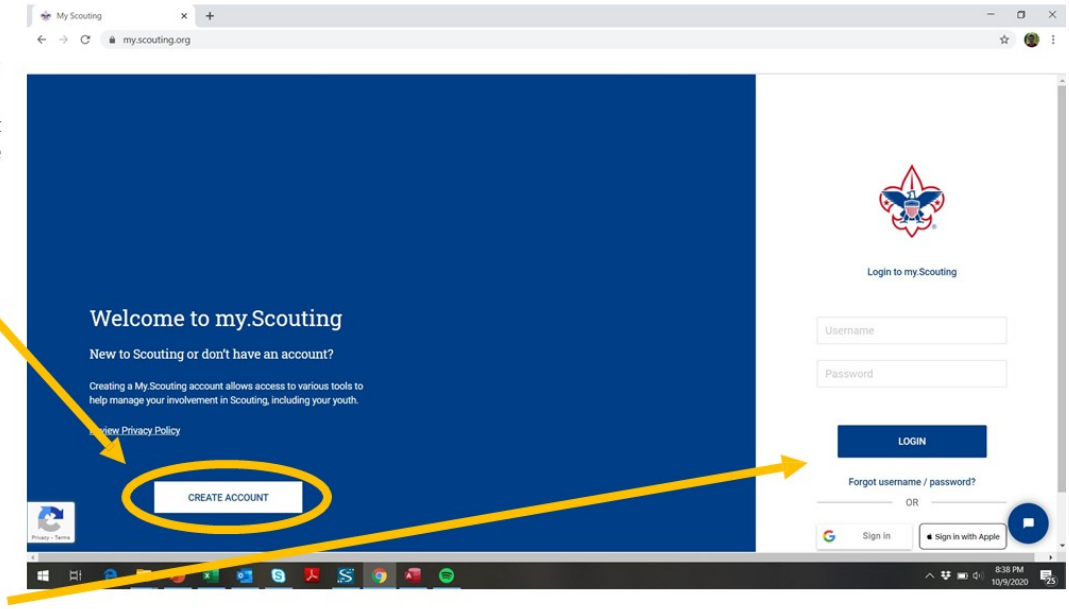
Down Load Step By Step Guide

Go to https://my.scouting.org and log in with your username and password.

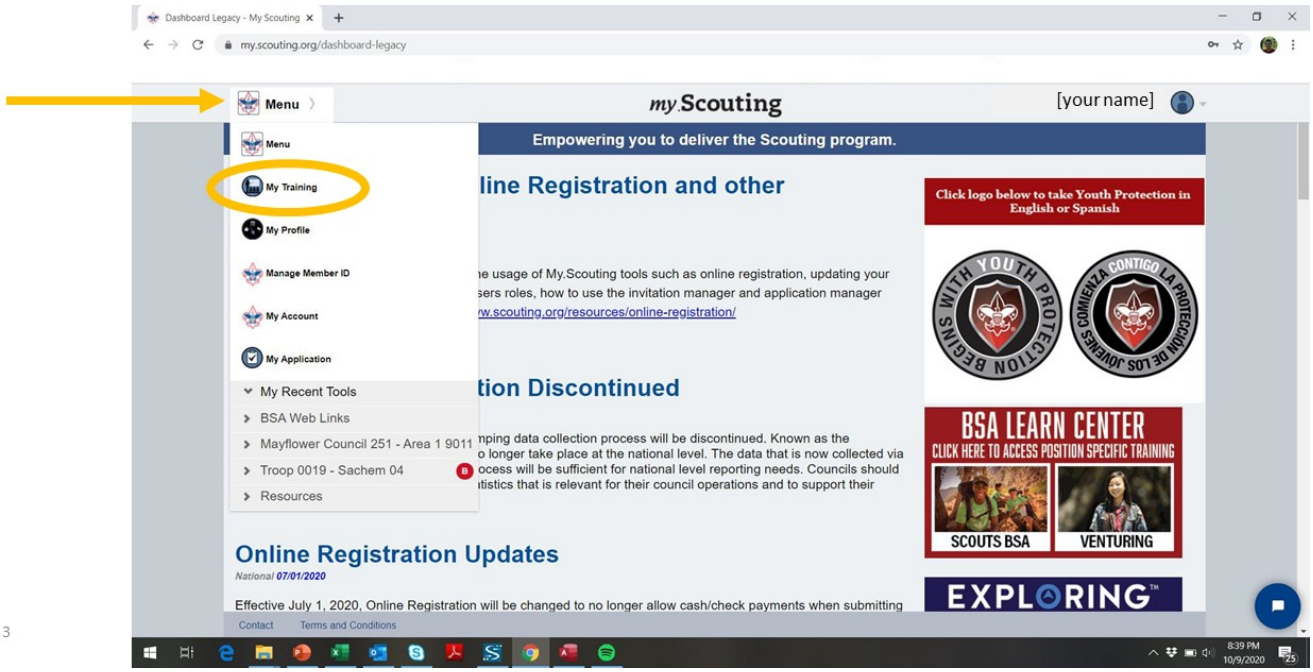
Device and browser: This training may work best on a computer/laptop, rather than a smaller mobile device. The BSA encourages users to try it in the latest version of Google Chrome or Microsoft Edge browser.

Login: If you're new, click "CREATE ACCOUNT" on the left to get started.

If you can't remember your login information but you think you've already set up a My.Scouting account, please click the "Forgot username/password" link. That's better than setting up a duplicate account that could cause problems in the future.



Click "Menu" to open the menu, then choose "My Training."



2021 Silver Beaver Award Nominations

In Scouting, we say “it’s about the youth” and none of our adults are involved for the recognition, but every now and then we need to say thanks especially to those volunteers whose leadership and example has left a lasting positive impact on the program and the broader community. One way we do that is through nominating a Scouter for the Silver Beaver Award, the highest adult recognition a council can bestow. Take a few moments to reflect on volunteers within your unit or district and consider nominating them for the Silver Beaver Award.

A detailed nomination form is available by clicking here and all nominations must be received by Friday, December 4, 2020.

Completed nominations should be emailed to: awards@mayflowerbsa.org. The awards will be presented at the Council’s Recognition Dinner to be held sometime in the Spring of 2021.

Frequently asked questions about the Silver Beaver Award:

Overview

To recognize registered Scouters of exceptional character who have provided distinguished service within a council. The award is presented by the National Court of Honor on behalf of councils.

Who Can Earn This Award?

Anyone may nominate any deserving registered Scouter to the council, which selects recipients for the following year. Each council may process their own annual allotment of Silver

Beaver awards and shall send a list of Silver Beaver awards presented each calendar year to the National Court of Honor no later than January 31 of the following year.

Mayflower Council Moves to New Headquarters

Mayflower Council, Inc, Boy Scouts of America, announced that they have acquired an office building in Milford, MA to serve as their new Service Center headquarters. The building, located at 83 Cedar Street, Milford, will provide 8,100 sq. ft. of office and meeting space for the Council's 17 professional and support staff.

Guidance Regarding COVID-19 for Scouting Events



The Mayflower Council is excited to provide to our units the

Reopening Scouting information and documentation needed for any Mayflower Council unit to re-engage in unit meetings, activities, outings and/or service. There are some new required procedures before re-engagement can occur. Below is a 4 guidebooks for all units and registered members/families to follow prior to re-engaging at any level of participation. These documents and required forms are necessary for the protection of our members (including our youth members), volunteer leaders and chartered partners, and the Mayflower Council and the BSA. The purpose of these precautionary procedures and steps is to mitigate certain risks and liabilities that unit leaders and others may be exposed to in connection with the reopening of Scouting in Mayflower Council while facilitating the ability to provide a first-class program to the youth we serve.

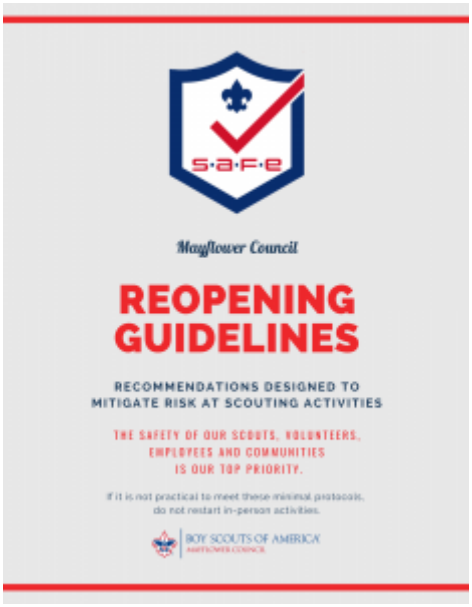
Please read and abide by these guidelines before re-engaging. If you have questions or concerns please contact us by email.

Thank you for all you do to make Scouting happen!



Guidance Documents
Updated January 22

All Scouting families and leaders are advised to download and read this guidance document before reopening Scouting.



Program Guidelines
Updated March 3, 2022

All leaders are advised to download and read the latest guidelines that are in place for Scouting meetings and activities.



Incident Reporting

In the event of sickness (including COVID-19) or accident during a unit, district or council event, units or event staff are required to complete and submit an incident report.

Latest Council Updates Concerning COVID-19

Mayflower Council, in addition to other communications, will update this web page with additional recommendations as new information becomes available.

March 3, 2022 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2022-03-03T15:36:25-05:00

March 3, 2022 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



The Mayflower Council is implementing the following changes that are effective immediately.

We continue to encourage our Scouting families and leaders to practice healthy and safe activities following recommended guidelines for COVID mitigation strategies. We are following the recommendations of the CDC, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, local healthcare officials and the Boy Scouts of America.

Mask Mandate Update

- Masks are no longer required for indoor Scouting meetings; however, masks are recommended while in large groups where social distancing is not possible.
- Scouts, leaders, and families are encouraged to practice social distancing whenever possible.
- Scouts and units must follow their chartered organization or meeting location guidelines or policies regarding the wearing of masks.
- Please note that the requirement of mask-wearing may be determined and enforced by the chartered organization or meeting location.
- Unit leadership must be aware of any local health department ordinances or requirements regarding the wearing of masks in public facilities.
- If an individual chooses to continue wearing a mask, that is perfectly acceptable.

COVID Attestation Form Update

- COVID attestation forms will no longer be required at

every Scouting meeting and activity. The forms are still available for those who would like to use them, but they are no longer required to be used.

General Guidance Update

- Any adult or youth experiencing COVID-like symptoms needs to immediately isolate and follow existing protocols.
- If a participant was exposed to COVID-19 within the last 10 days, guidance is as follows:
    - For those who are FULLY vaccinated: If you were exposed to COVID-19, participation is still allowed. Keep an eye out for symptoms for 10 days after the last contact. Participant must wear a mask around others to prevent possible transmission.
    - For those who are NOT vaccinated: If you were exposed to COVID-19, no participation is permitted for 5 days from the last contact. Keep an eye out for symptoms for 10 days after the last contact. Masks are required for participation during days 6-10.
- Unit leaders must report, within 12 hours, confirmed or strongly suspected cases of any communicable disease infections, including COVID-19, occurring during or within 48 hours after a unit meeting or activity, to incidentreport@mayflowerbsa.org using the incident report forms. Unit leaders are also required to promptly notify adult leaders and parents of all Scouts who participated in the activity, as well as the unit's chartered organization representative. Additional guidance on reporting is available here.
- No shared food or drink, for example, no buffet service or family-style service. If someone from the unit is cooking, then that person needs to plate the food for each participant. We recommend individually packaged

condiments and anything you can purchase individually packaged.

Unit Camping Update

- Cabins continue to be available for program use by units.
- While it is recommended to sleep one person per tent, it is acceptable to camp with a maximum of two people per tent. Parental permission should be obtained by the unit leader for any youth members sharing a tent.
- When sharing a tent or lean-to, individuals should sleep no closer than 6 feet from one another. Individuals sleeping next to one another or in bunk beds should be arranged to sleep head-to-toe.

Transportation Update

- Carpooling is permitted. While traveling in a vehicle to an outing or activity, face covering use is suggested, but not required. It is also recommended that windows are at least partially open to increase airflow and air exchange and air intake is in non-circulating mode.

Review the complete Mayflower Council COVID-19 Program Reopening Guidelines here. If you have specific questions, please direct your questions to covid19@mayflowerbsa.org

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our Scouts, leaders, and families healthy and safe.

January 6, 2022 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2022-01-06T11:59:24-05:00

January 6, 2022 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



The Mayflower Council remains committed to and focused on providing a safe environment for our employees, Scouts, Scouters, and volunteers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have repeatedly taken practical steps and implemented robust measures to ensure the welfare of all which has enabled us to safely run programs over the last two years.

Due to the increase in prevalence of COVID-19 in our communities, Mayflower Council is restating the following guidelines, already in effect as of September 23, 2021.

General Guidance

- Vaccines are strongly recommended for all who are eligible.
- It is the policy of the council that face coverings **will be worn** by everyone in attendance during meetings or other indoor events. This applies to every person, youth and adult, vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- Face coverings should not be worn in or near water, while actively eating or drinking, or while sleeping. Proper social distancing should be maintained in those circumstances.
- Each member should “Be Prepared” and have an ample amount of clean and dry face masks available to wear.
- Units and members must follow any additional guidelines imposed by local municipalities or health departments, building operators, or chartered organizations.
- The Mayflower Council “Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist” has been updated, effective January 5, 2022.

Everyone should use this checklist prior to beginning each meeting or activity.

- Unit leaders must report, within 12 hours, confirmed or strongly suspected cases of any communicable disease infections, including COVID-19, occurring during or within 48 hours after a unit meeting or activity, to incidentreport@mayflowerbsa.org using the incident report forms. Unit leaders are also required to promptly notify adult leaders and parents of all Scouts who participated in the activity, as well as the unit's chartered organization representative. Additional guidance on reporting is available here.

Unit Camping Guidance

- Cabins continue to be available for program use by units.
- Mayflower Council strongly advises against group (congregate) sleeping inside cabins or other indoor locations. We recommend that unit overnight camping be limited to tent and lean-to sites.
- Face coverings will be worn by everyone when indoors. This applies to every person, youth and adult, vaccinated and unvaccinated.
- While it is recommended to sleep one person per tent, it is acceptable to camp with a maximum of two people per tent. Parental permission should be obtained by the unit leader for any youth members sharing a tent.
- When sharing a tent or lean-to, individuals should sleep no closer than 6 feet from one another. Individuals sleeping next to one another or in bunk beds should be arranged to sleep head-to-toe.

Transportation

While traveling in a vehicle to an outing or activity, face covering use is required. It is also recommended that windows are at least partially open to increase airflow and air exchange and air intake is in non-circulating mode.

Council Service Center
Face coverings are required for all visitors, including those who are vaccinated, in shared public areas: meeting rooms, hallways, etc.

As always, if you or someone in your family is experiencing symptoms of illness, refrain from attending **any** Scouting meetings or activities. Please continue to wash your hands and practice good hygiene at all times.

A Scout is Helpful. Let's work together to make sure that Scouting does its part to avoid contributing to an overloaded health care system.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as necessary. In the meantime, all events on the calendar will continue as planned with the above guidance in addition to our guidelines and protocols. Any information about cancelations or postponements of events will be sent to those signed up as soon as it is available.

The above are simply highlights of our COVID-19 guidelines; review the complete Mayflower Council COVID-19 Program Reopening Guidelines here.

September 23, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2021-09-23T14:38:58-04:00

September 23, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



The safety of our Scouts, volunteers, employees, and communities continues to be our top priority. We must continue our vigilance to assure that youth and their families are safe while they enjoy the many benefits of Scouting. Due to the increase in infection rates seen from COVID-19; the development of variants; the percentage of individuals who are not vaccinated; and the current vaccine not being able to be used in children under 12 yrs. of age, the Mayflower Council is recommending the following updated guidelines which are subject to change based upon local health department, state, CDC, and council risk management committee recommendations. Units are permitted to establish stricter standards for their unit meetings and activities if they so desire. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable.

General Guidance

- Vaccines are strongly recommended for all who are eligible.
- **Effective Friday, September 24: Each Scout and adult, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear a face covering at indoor meetings, events and activities. Face coverings are not required at outdoor Scouting meetings, events or activities.**
- Participants should not attend any activity/meeting/event if they or anyone they live with has been tested for COVID-19 or another illness and does not have the results back yet.
- All participants should follow posted capacity limits of indoor spaces. Avoid crowded or poorly ventilated indoor activities.

  Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Some local and community orders may supersede these guidelines.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control, the Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than

early forms of COVID-19. We must remain attentive to mitigation measures.

Unit Meetings & Activities
Unit leadership should follow local health guidelines and continue to practice social distancing in all Scouting activities. Face coverings are no longer required in outdoor settings where social distancing is incorporated. For indoor meetings and activities, face coverings are required for all youth and adults in attendance. On campouts, we recommend that if Scouts sleep more than one per tent, they sleep head to toe. Separate tenting arrangements must be provided for male and female adults as well as for male and female youth. In Cub Scouting, parents and guardians may share a tent with their family. In all other programs, youth and adults tent separately.

Face Masks at Mayflower Council Camps
While outdoors at camp, face coverings are not required. Face coverings are required to be worn indoors including inside the dining hall and all other camp buildings.

Health Assessments & Cleaning
Council activities will continue to require the pre-event screening sheet. Upon arriving at an event, this sheet will be reviewed by a member of the event staff. Event staff will clean restrooms and high traffic areas often. Program equipment will be wiped down between groups and hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout camp. We recommend all participants bring and use their own hand sanitizer and practice good hand washing hygiene.

Facility Rentals
Units and groups may continue to use council facilities by making a reservation through our online booking system. Face coverings are required to be worn indoors including inside the rental cabins except when actively eating or drinking or sleeping.

Transportation
While traveling in a vehicle to an outing or activity, face covering use is required. It is also recommended that windows are at least partially open to increase airflow and air exchange and air intake is in non-circulating mode.

Council Service Center
Face coverings are required for all visitors, including those who are vaccinated, in shared public areas: meeting rooms, hallways, etc.

The above are simply highlights of our COVID-19 guidelines; review the complete Mayflower Council COVID-19 Program Reopening Guidelines here.

June 15, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2021-09-10T10:26:56-04:00

June 15, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



On June 15, the Mayflower Council is revised its COVID-19 guidelines.

Review the most up to date Program Guidelines here. For the latest complete COVID-19 council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

Finally, as Scouts, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout Law now more than ever before. As restrictions continue to lift, individuals within your Scout unit may have varying levels of comfort or anxiety. It is our

responsibility to be kind while being helpful and friendly and demonstrate empathy and respect to everyone, even if they have beliefs different from ours. As we move forward let's be cheerful and brave while showing obedience to the rules, regulations and guidance of the Commonwealth, Council, chartered organizations and cities/towns.

May 20, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2021-05-20T13:52:52-04:00

May 20, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



On Monday, May 17, the Baker-Polito Administration announced that all remaining COVID-19 restrictions in the Commonwealth will be lifted effective May 29. The Mayflower Council is revising our COVID-19 guidelines based on this announcement.

Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- In line with updated CDC and Commonwealth face covering guidance, the Mayflower Council will rescind the current face covering requirement for outdoor Scouting meetings, events & activities effective May 29. Face coverings will remain required indoors for all Scouting meetings, events & activities.
- The gathering limits will be rescinded.
- Lean-tos and activity pavilions at Nobscot Scout Reservation will be available for rental effective May 29. Booking for lean-tos and pavilions will open May 24.
- Cabins at Camp Resolute, Camp Squanto and Nobscot Scout

Reservation will be available for rental effective September 6. Booking for cabins will open June 1.

- Changes to summer camp operations will be announced on Monday, May 24 at our Summer Camp Update. Sign-up to attend.
- Before resuming any meetings or activities or removing face coverings, check with your charter organization to ensure they approve.

Review the most up to date Program Guidelines here. For the latest complete COVID-19 council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

Finally, as Scouts, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout Law now more than ever before. As restrictions begin to lift, individuals within your Scout unit may have varying levels of comfort or anxiety. It is our responsibility to be kind while being helpful and friendly and demonstrate empathy and respect to everyone, even if they have beliefs different from ours. As we move forward let's be cheerful and brave while showing obedience to the rules, regulations and guidance of the Commonwealth, Council, chartered organizations and cities/towns.

April 5, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2021-04-05T18:35:49-04:00

April 5, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



Effective today, April 5, the Mayflower Council is amending

our recommendation for carpooling to and from Scouting events to be as follows:

The Mayflower Council still believes that transportation to and from activities should be made within family units and carpooling should be discouraged.

Should a unit decide to permit carpooling to and from Scouting activities, the following best practices are recommended, based on guidelines from the CDC and Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

- Youth protection guidelines must always be followed.
- Any youth who will be traveling in a vehicle with multiple individuals must have their parent's/guardian's written permission. Any adult who will be traveling in a vehicle with multiple individuals – including the driver – must give their consent.
- Each passenger in the vehicle must wear a mask covering their nose and mouth at all times while inside the vehicle. Cover coughs and sneezes. When outside of the vehicle, individuals should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from one another.
- To increase air circulation, it is best to open windows or set the air ventilation/air conditioning on non-recirculation mode.
- Occupants should refrain from eating or drinking while in the vehicle to ensure mask use at all times. Plan to eat and drink outside of the vehicle when you are not near other people.
- Occupants should stay in the same group/vehicle for all portions of the trip, including return trip.
- For trips longer than 1 hour, every effort should be made to leave open seats between second (and third) row passengers.
- Use proper hand hygiene. Hands should be washed before and after the trip. Hand sanitizer should be used where proper hand washing is not possible.

- High touch areas inside and outside of the vehicle (door handles, seat belts, etc.) should be disinfected before and after each trip.
- Unit leaders should maintain a list of passengers in each vehicle for at least 30 days after a trip, to facilitate contact tracing.

All previously announced COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in effect. For the most up to date council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

March 25, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations UpdateRick Riopelle2021-03-25T14:43:51-04:00

March 25, 2021 COVID-19 Council Operations Update



Monday, March 18, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced an Appendix to COVID-19 Order #63 amending gathering limits. Therefore, effective immediately, the Mayflower Council will be updating our Scouting group size limits to the following:

- Gatherings at Private Residences:
  - Indoor gatherings at private residences and in other places not falling within the definition of an event venue or public setting are limited to a maximum of 10 people.
  - Outdoor gatherings at private residences and in other places not falling within the definition of an event venue or public setting are limited to a

maximum of 25 people.

- Gatherings at Event Venues and in Public Settings:
  - Indoor gatherings at event venues or in public settings are limited to a maximum of 100 people.
  - Outdoor gatherings at event venues or in public settings are limited to a maximum of 150 persons in a single venue or space.

In addition to the capacity restrictions specified above, **all participants in indoor and outdoor gatherings**, including gatherings at private residences, **must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance from every other participant** in the gathering, except where participants are members of the same household.

On Friday, March 26, we are updating our council camping restrictions to remove the 12 person maximum per campsite and increasing the maximum number of campers allowed in our camps. Cabins will remain closed at this time.

All previously announced COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in effect. For the most up to date council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

January 22, 2021 UpdateRick Riopelle2021-01-22T14:10:31-05:00

January 22, 2021 Update



Yesterday, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced that the stay at home order would expire on Monday, January 25 at 5am. Therefore, effective Monday,

January 25, 2021, the Mayflower Council will be reopening our three camps to overnight outdoor camping. Camp Resolute and Nobscot Scout Reservation will be open for weekday and weekend overnight camping and Camp Squanto will be open for weekend overnight camping. Our camps will also continue to be available for day use and cabins will remain unavailable for the foreseeable future.

The number of units that we can accommodate at our camps for overnight camping will be reduced in order to comply with the 25% capacity restrictions imposed by the Commonwealth thru at least February 8, 2021. Occupancy of each campsite remains limited to a maximum of 12 occupants per campsite.

The following size limits for gatherings remain in effect: indoor gatherings are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings are limited to 25 people.

All previously announced COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in effect. For the most up to date council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

November 3, 2020 UpdateRick Riopelle2020-11-03T18:40:33-05:00

November 3, 2020 Update

Dear Scouting Family,

Yesterday, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced COVID-19 Executive Order #54 which states that, effective Friday, November 6th, there will be a stay at home advisory for the hours between 10pm and 5am. Governor Baker also implemented additional limitations on gatherings in outdoor venues.

Therefore, effective Friday, November 6, 2020, the Mayflower Council will be closing our three camps to overnight camping until further notice. Our camp will remain available for day use and cabins will remain unavailable for the foreseeable

future. Units with current overnight reservations will be contacted to determine if your unit would prefer to transition their reservation to “day only,” or simply cancel.

The order also reduced the size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues remains the same. It also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 PM.

All previously announced COVID-19 restrictions continue to be in effect. For the most up to date council guidance refer to www.mayflowerbsa.org/covid-19.

The new COVID-19 restrictions continue to make delivery of a quality outdoor Scouting program difficult. These restrictions have us facing a complicated environment for Scouting. We are challenged with recruitment, training, cancelled events, finding appropriate places to meet and parents who are concerned about their children being around others. Additionally, school is not normal, home is not normal and we are restricted from friends and activities as we navigate this uncertain landscape. We can, however, still give youth an amazing program.

To help keep Scouting going our council has created the virtual Yeti Cubs program that sends a weekly email to every Cub Scout family to help keep their child on track with Cub Scout advancement, monthly virtual pack meetings, virtual merit badge classes, and quarterly virtual campfires. Our training team has also offered a wildly popular best practices for conducting virtual meetings; and will be offering an updated version soon. We continue to develop COVID-19 friendly methods to bring Scouting to our membership.

In all that is currently going on in the world, it would be

easy to throw up our hands and declare it just too tough. However, our youth need leadership. Our youth need you. Keep calm and continue Scouting! Thanks for all you do, no matter how tough.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Rotar, Council President
Josh Paulin, Council Commissioner
Bryan Feather, Scout Executive / CEO

August 7, 2020 UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:31:23-04:00

August 7, 2020 Update

Today the Mayflower Council leadership has amended the following guidelines: the maximum group size allowed at Scouting meetings and activities to mirror that of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Phase III, Step I and the availability of our camp properties. The revised guidelines are as follows:

- Group Meetings:
    - Indoor gatherings are limited to 8 persons per 1,000 square feet of accessible, indoor floor space and never more than 25 persons in a single enclosed, indoor space.
    - Outdoor gatherings are limited to 25% of the maximum permitted occupancy of the facility or 8 persons per 1,000 square feet and never more than 50 persons in a single outdoor space.
        - Gatherings subject to this limitation include: community, civic, public, leisure, sporting events, concerts, conferences, conventions, fundraisers, fairs, festivals, road races, and other similar events or activities. These restrictions apply to gatherings in all public and private venues

and locations in the Commonwealth, including private homes, backyards, parks, athletic fields, and parking lots.

- Camp Resolute & Nobscot Scout Reservation are available for tent camping on both weekdays and weekends. Camp Squanto is open for tent camping on weekends only. Adventure Day Camp at Camp Resolute is open solely for programs hosted by the Mayflower Council in June, July & August. It is important to note that the revised gathering sizes do not apply when camping at our camp properties. Our camp properties are subject to sector-specific rules that are more stringent.

Review our revised Program Guidelines for the complete list of guidelines that are in place for Scouting meetings and activities.

July 16, 2020 UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:31:13-04:00

July 16, 2020 Update

Today the Mayflower Council leadership has amended the following guidelines: the maximum group size allowed at Scouting meetings and activities to mirror that of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Phase III, Step I and the availability of our camp properties. The revised guidelines are in red:

- **Before resuming any meetings or activities, check with your charter organization to ensure they approve.** Some charter organizations are not opening their facilities for meetings or have imposed additional restrictions on group meetings and activities. Rules or guidance from your charter organization must be followed. Please respect their wishes.
- Currently Camp Resolute & Nobscot Scout Reservation are available for tent camping on both weekdays and weekends. Camp Squanto will be open for tent camping

beginning on August 1. Adventure Day Camp at Camp Resolute is open solely for programs hosted by the Mayflower Council in June, July & August. It is important to note that the revised gathering sizes do not apply when camping at our camp properties. Our camp properties are subject to sector-specific rules that are more stringent.

- Individuals at higher risk of severe illness (older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions) should consult their physician prior to participation in any group activities.
- All participants should review their current health prior to participating in any activity. Individuals with temperatures higher than 100.4 and other symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate.
- All units must keep a detailed roster of participants for all meetings and activities, so they are prepared in the event that contact tracing is required.
- All individuals who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for 14-days prior to participation in any Scouting activity.
- Outdoor meetings are highly encouraged.
- All persons should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside.
- Group Meetings:
    - **Indoor gatherings are limited to 8 persons per 1,000 square feet** of accessible, indoor floor space and **never more than 25 persons** in a single enclosed, indoor space.
    - **Outdoor gatherings in enclosed, permitted or leased spaces are limited to 25% of the maximum permitted occupancy of the facility or 8 persons per 1,000 square feet and never more than 100 persons** in a single outdoor space that is enclosed, permitted or leased.
    - **Outdoor gatherings in unenclosed spaces are not subject to capacity limitations.**

        - *Gatherings in Unenclosed Spaces*: Outdoor gatherings that are not subject to the capacity limitations above, such as those in a park, backyard, athletic field, or parking lot are permitted, provided that the type of gathering is not prohibited in the list below.
        - *Prohibited Activities*: Street festivals, agricultural festivals, walk-a-thons, road races and bike races, and other outdoor, organized athletic or recreational events that gather large numbers of participants or spectators outdoors are prohibited until further notice.
- We encourage you to postpone any large meetings or activities and continue virtual gatherings where possible, utilizing conference calls or online video conferencing.
- Transportation to and from activities should be made within family units. Carpooling should be discouraged.
- Each Scout and adult are required to wear a face covering.
- Handwashing and sanitation of shared supplies must be done between use.
- Sleeping arrangements on camping trips should be limited to one person per tent, unless they are family.
- Families/siblings do not need to maintain social distancing for transportation, sleeping, or meetings.
- Six foot distancing should be maintained when practical during hikes, bike rides, and other follow the leader activities.
- All local, state, and federal safety guidelines should be followed. Please review guidelines for not only your unit’s meeting location, but the location of any camping/activity destination.
- Ensure all Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection guidelines are adhered to.

- It is recommended that these guidelines be shared with each member of your unit and posted during all meetings and activities. Units should obtain written permission from parents stating that they have reviewed these guidelines and consent to having their child participate in Scouting activities. Keep these permissions with the unit health forms.

July 2 Update on Scouts BSA Summer Resident CampRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:31:01-04:00

July 2 Update on Scouts BSA Summer Resident Camp

Scouts BSA Summer Resident Camp Cancelled

June 11, 2020 UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:30:49-04:00

June 11, 2020 Update

Dear Scouting Family,

The Mayflower Council leadership is committed to resuming Scouting's in-person meetings and activities as our Commonwealth, local authorities and the Council's COVID-19 Task Force deem it safe to do so. At this time, our Commonwealth remains in Stage Two of the Reopening Massachusetts four phase plan issued by Governor Baker.

On Monday, June 15th the Mayflower Council's district and council activities, as well as Scout unit meetings and activities, are permitted to resume in-person, with limitations. Many of you have been looking forward to being able to gather together again to work on advancement, go camping, and complete service projects; but we also want to ensure these activities are being done as safely as possible.

In order to mitigate the health risk of spreading COVID-19 to our volunteers, staff, and Scouts, the Mayflower Council is providing the following guidelines. These recommendations are

designed to mitigate risk, but all participants need to be aware that any activity puts them at some risk of exposure. Please remember that some who are exposed to COVID-19 could be asymptomatic. If a person becomes infected, they may become asymptomatic carriers and could infect other people unknowingly.

- **Before resuming any meetings or activities, check with your charter organization to ensure they approve.** Some charter organizations are not opening their facilities for meetings or have imposed additional restrictions on group meetings and activities. Rules or guidance from your charter organization must be followed. Please respect their wishes.
- **Currently Camp Squanto & Adventure Day Camp at Camp Resolute will be open solely for programs hosted by the Mayflower Council in June, July & August.** We intend to open Camp Resolute and Nobscot Scout Reservation for tent camping later in the month and will share additional information on our website as soon as it is available.
- Individuals at higher risk of severe illness (older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions) should consult their physician prior to participation in any group activities.
- All participants should review their current health prior to participating in any activity. Individuals with temperatures higher than 100.4 and other symptoms of COVID-19 should not participate.
- All units must keep a detailed roster of participants for all meetings and activities, so they are prepared in the event that contact tracing is required.
- All individuals who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for 14-days prior to participation in any Scouting activity.
- Outdoor meetings are highly encouraged.
- All persons should remain at least six feet apart to the

greatest extent possible, both inside and outside.

- **Group meeting size must be limited to no more than 10 people** (8 youth and 2 adults). While we realize there are a number of troops and packs with more than 10 youth, this number is set by the Commonwealth to allow for appropriate social distancing and efficient contact tracing in the event of potential exposure. Activities done in small groups (den meetings and patrol meetings) are preferable.
- We encourage you to postpone any large meetings or activities and continue virtual gatherings where possible, utilizing conference calls or online video conferencing.
- Transportation to and from activities should be made within family units. Carpooling should be discouraged.
- Each Scout and adult are required to wear a face covering.
- Handwashing and sanitation of shared supplies must be done between use.
- Sleeping arrangements on camping trips should be limited to one person per tent, unless they are family.
- Families/siblings do not need to maintain social distancing for transportation, sleeping, or meetings.
- Six foot distancing should be maintained when practical during hikes, bike rides, and other follow the leader activities.
- All local, state, and federal safety guidelines should be followed. Please review guidelines for not only your unit’s meeting location, but the location of any camping/activity destination.
- Ensure all Boy Scouts of America Youth Protection guidelines are adhered to.
- It is recommended that these guidelines be shared with each member of your unit and posted during all meetings and activities. Units should obtain written permission from parents stating that they have reviewed these guidelines and consent to having their child participate

in Scouting activities. Keep these permissions with the unit health forms.

Finally, as Scouts, it is important that we demonstrate the principles of the Scout Law now more than ever before. As restrictions begin to lift, individuals within your Scout unit may have varying levels of comfort or anxiety. It is our responsibility to be kind while being helpful and friendly and demonstrate empathy and respect to everyone, even if they have beliefs different than ours. As we move forward let’s be cheerful and brave while showing obedience to the rules, regulations and guidance of our Commonwealth, Mayflower Council, and chartered organizations.

Take care and be well,

Mike Rotar
Council President

Josh Paulin
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive / CEO

May 25 Council UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:30:37-04:00

May 25 Council Update

Dear Scouting Family:

We hope that you are safe and healthy during this challenging time. Over the past several months, your Council leadership has been carefully monitoring the impact COVID-19 has had on our communities and on our Scouting program. While we are hopeful that restrictions will soon be adjusted to allow for some version of face-to-face Scouting meetings and outdoor activities, we are not quite there at this time. State guidelines still limit group size to no more than 10 people

and camping, parks and select sports are planned to reopen in Phase 2. **For the safety of our Scouts, Scouters and community, we are extending the suspension of all face-to-face meetings, events, activities, trips and our property closures through June 15th, which is consistent with the phased reopening of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.**

Council leadership will revisit our restrictions again when information on Phase 2 is released by Governor Baker. At that time, we will provide information on approved activities that will best protect our Scouting family while continuing to follow the guidance of our local, state, and national authorities.

We are excited about the future and look forward to re-engaging in weekly unit meetings and the outdoor programs that we all know and love. These programs may look a little different, as we work to mitigate risk, but we are confident in the Scouting spirit and the tremendous value our program provides to the young people we serve.

We look forward to seeing you on the Scouting trail soon!

Mike Rotar
Council President

Joshua Paulin
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive / CEO

May 18 Update on Summer Camp OperationsRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:30:25-04:00

May 18 Update on Summer Camp Operations

Cub Scout Summer Camp Update
Scouts BSA Summer Camp Update

April 24 Council UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:36:19-04:00

April 24 Council Update

Dear Scouting Family:

We hope that you remain safe and well during these unusual times. Like you, we are carefully monitoring the impact COVID-19 has on our communities and the guidance from our public officials, especially mandatory closure dates. **For the safety of our Scouts, Scouters and community, we are extending our closures through May 31.**

This means all in-person Scouting activities of any type remain prohibited through May 31. We have previously communicated that our guidance supersedes all other Scouting guidance, including that from the National Council Boy Scouts of America. Should any guidance from your chartered organization or your local health department be more restrictive, please also follow those restrictions.

We are inspired by our Scouting families for their determination to continue Scouting during these challenging times. Whether it is virtual meetings and activities or making cheerful cards for the elderly in nursing homes, Scouting continues to thrive across the communities in our council. Our Scouting at Home page has support for all our programs. These activities will help Scouts earn our new Scouting at Home Award patch, which you can learn more about here. We'd love to hear any ideas or resources you have, please share them with us at scoutingathome@mayflowerbsa.org or on our Facebook page.

We are hosting a plethora of virtual meetings, events and activities to keep our Scouts active. For our Scouts BSA members we have launched virtual merit badges, beginning in May we will offer our Cub Scouts weekly den meetings, for our entire Scouting family we're hosting our second virtual

campfire as well as a Camping At Home Challenge, and we're excited about the National Camp-in on May 2.

Our teams at Camp Resolute, Adventure Day Camp and Camp Squanto are excited to welcome you this summer and we anticipate a fantastic experience. **There is no risk for families and units of losing money by signing up for Mayflower Camps now.** In the event that camp does not open or has a shortened season due to COVID-19 and your troop or campers are unable to attend during your scheduled time, all camp fees paid will be refunded. Read more about summer camp here.

We are all learning new ways to do Scouting and are succeeding. In many ways, this crisis has brought all of us closer together even from a distance. For over a century, Scouting has been all about being prepared. In a sense, we have been preparing for times like these for over 110 years. Our Scout motto of "Be Prepared" tells us that we are ready for this challenge.

Thank you for all that you do for Scouting.

Yours in Scouting,

Mike Rotar, Council President
Josh Paulin, Council Commissioner
Bryan Feather, Scout Executive

April 16 Update On Summer Camp OperationsRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:29:55-04:00

April 16 Update On Summer Camp Operations

Message from our camp directors

March 26 Council UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:27:35-04:00

March 26 Council Update

We hope this letter finds you and your family well during

these unprecedented times. Everyone has spent the last several days and weeks learning about COVID-19 (coronavirus) and how it's affecting our community. Families are adjusting to stay-at-home advisories and coping with school closures.

The Mayflower Council priority is to keep our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their families safe as well as demonstrate good citizenship in our communities by considering the needs of those around us.

As the threat of COVID-19 increases, most states, local governments, and school districts have either issued or extended stay-at-home advisories. **As a result, we are extending the stoppage of all Council, district and unit face-to-face Scout activities, face-to-face meetings, as well as Camps and Council Service Center closures through April 30.** As a reminder:

- **All face-to-face Scouting activities are canceled effective immediately through April 30.** This includes unit meetings (including patrol and den meetings), campouts, activities, trips, Pinewood Derbies, Blue and Gold Dinners, in-person fundraisers, service projects, Court of Honors (including for Eagle Scouts), etc. Please continue to work with your Scouts via digital and electronic methods whenever possible.
- **All face-to-face council-level and district-level events and meetings are canceled through April 30.** This includes Roundtable, training events and committee meetings. Please use all digital and electronic means available to conduct your meetings.
- **All Council Camps are closed through April 30.**
- **The Council Service Centers are closed through April 30.** Our staff will be working remotely and respond to all calls, emails and postal mail.

This is most certainly a fluid situation. We will continue to align with best practices and policies set forth by state and

local governments, municipalities, and schools. In the future, restrictions may be reduced or lifted within areas of the council thereby restoring Scout activities, face-to-face meetings, and the reopening of council service centers and camps in that area. Should changes to closures be warranted, we will promptly communicate with you.

We have been working to identify and encourage opportunities for Scouts to continue meeting with their units virtually, learn new skills, earn merit badges and advancements, and – most importantly – to do their part in giving back to their communities. We wanted to share with you some resources we've gathered that you might find helpful while planning activities at home for your families and staying up-to-date with Scouting during this pandemic. Click here for our most current list of resources.

Together, we can help flatten the curve of this rapidly spreading virus and keep everyone safe. Stay positive, have faith, and know the health and well-being of our Scouts, volunteers, staff, and their families are our number one priority!

Take care and be well,

Mike Rotar
Council President

Josh Paulin
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive

March 12 Council UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:27:20-04:00

March 12 Council Update

As we informed you in our email on March 9th, we have been

monitoring the situation regarding the COVID-19 “Coronavirus”. Since then, the situation has worsened: the World Health Organization has upgraded the virus to pandemic level and Governor Charlie Baker has declared a state of emergency. Therefore, **effective immediately, we are suspending all council and district in-person group meetings, trainings, activities, events, etc. through April 7.** We ask districts and committees to conduct their work virtually where possible to help carry on the important work of service to our youth.

We recommend that individual units suspend in-person meetings and activities, and to leverage technology to deliver the program to our youth during this time. While the majority of youth are at low risk from this illness, limiting group exposure can help to slow the spread of COVID-19 to at-risk members of our community. Community service comes in many forms. This course of action ensures that we do our part to protect others in our community-at-large and is in keeping with the values embodied in the Scout Oath and Law.

We encourage you to take standard precautions outlined by the CDC, including hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home if you are ill. Please visit this page for additional
information: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

For the latest information, please refer to our website. This includes a list of postponed or rescheduled events, and links to recommendations of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed.

Thank you for your understanding,

Mike Rotar
Council President

Josh Paulin
Council Commissioner

Bryan Feather
Scout Executive

March 8 UpdateRick Riopelle2020-08-23T19:27:10-04:00

March 8 Update

Click here to read the Mayflower Council leadership's update on Scouting and COVID-19.

What to Do if You Think You're Sick

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and may have had contact with a person with COVID-19 or recently traveled to countries with apparent community spread, call your health care provider or local public health department first before seeking medical care so that appropriate precautions can be taken. Do not attend any Scouting meeting, event or activity.

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is working closely with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide updated information about the novel coronavirus outbreak. Visit their website for the most up to date information.

BSA Polices to Prevent the Spread of Illness

The Boy Scouts of America continues to have policies and procedures in place that help protect participants from contracting an illness at large Scouting events. These include

the Annual Health and Medical Record and the Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist.

Everyday Preventive Measures

Even with those important policies in place, it is critical that we all take these everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- **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 isolate and not attend any Scouting events. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.