

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

PREAMBLE. VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL, BSA, (VHC) has adopted the [Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues](#) (LA County Protocols) described in the Order of the Health Officer, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (as revised 8/20/2020) with additional rules and interpretations for outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities in small groups (called “cohorts” in the LA County Protocol). ALL of these rules and protocols are NOT optional, and ALL protocols — both [VHC protocol](#) and [County of Los Angeles Youth Sport Leagues Protocol](#) — MUST be followed. IMPORTANT: The Chartered Organization must approve any outdoor meeting or activity by any unit they sponsor. The Chartered Organization is the legal entity that is responsible for their Scouting programs and activities.

In the document below, text without highlighting is from the LA County Protocol. Highlighted text represents the VHC additions or clarifications.

This policy was approved by the Verdugo Hills Council board on 09/16/2020.

This policy was reviewed and updated on 4/6/2021. The protocols will be updated monthly.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER
Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues (Revised 8/20/2020)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to allow certain venues to safely reopen. The requirements below are specific to Youth Sports Programs permitted to be open by the Order of the State Public Health Officer. In addition to the conditions imposed on these specific programs by the Governor, these types of programs must also be in compliance with the conditions laid out in this Checklist for Youth Sports.

Note that this protocol applies to recreational youth sports leagues, club sports, travel sports, and sports sponsored by private and public schools serving students in TK-12 schools. It is not intended for use by adult sports leagues, or amateur adult sports, which must remain closed per the State Health Officer Order. Until further notice, all youth sports activities must take place outdoors.

This protocol applies to all Lions, Tigers, Cub Scouts, Scouts, Venturers, leaders, and volunteers registered with the Boy Scouts of America, as well as family members who are participating or in attendance.

IMPORTANT: At this time, all Scout meetings and activities are only permitted OUTDOORS.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available, so be sure to check the Verdugo Hills Council website, <http://vhcbsa.org>.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Protecting and supporting employee and customer health
- (2) Ensuring appropriate physical distancing
- (3) Ensuring proper infection control
- (4) Communicating with the public
- (5) Ensuring equitable access to services

These five key areas must be addressed as your program develops any reopening protocols. All Youth Sports Teams must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Youth Sports Team/League name: **Verdugo Hills Council, BSA**

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Coach Name and Facility Address: David Potter, Vice President-Program, 1325 Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201

Recent Updates:

8/20/20: Updated to remove collegiate sports from the list of entities that this protocol does not apply to.

8/12/20: Updated to allow players to remove face coverings during periods of heavy exertion.

8/6/20: Updated to clarify that youth may kick or throw a ball back and forth in pairs, but not as a group activity.

A. MEASURES TO ENSURE PLAYER AND COACH SAFETY

- Physical distancing of six (6) feet between each player and between players and coaches is required at all times. Youth sports activities are limited to activities that enable all players and coaches to maintain a physical distance of at least six feet between each other at all times, and an eight feet distance during times of heavy physical exertion. These activities include but are not limited to training, conditioning, and skills-building activities. Contact sports cannot practice in the same manner as they used to practice prior to COVID-19.
Leaders of outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities must maintain six feet between each participant, and eight feet during heavy exertion.
- All players, coaches, family members and visitors are required to wear an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and the mouth at all times, except while swimming, showering, eating/drinking, when engaging in heavy physical exertion (while maintaining a distance of 8 feet or greater from others), or engaging in solo physical exertion (such as jogging by one's self). This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Masks with one-way valves may not be used. Only individuals who have been instructed not to wear a face covering by their medical provider due to a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering are exempt from wearing one. Players should take a break from exercise if any difficulty breathing is noted and should change their mask or face covering if it becomes wet and sticks to the player's face and obstructs breathing. Masks that restrict airflow under heavy exertion (such as N-95 masks) are not advised for exercise.
Participants in outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities must wear face covering and follow all guidelines as outline here.
- [Screening](#) is conducted before players and coaches may participate in youth sports activities. Checks must include a check-in concerning fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills, and whether the person has had contact with a person known or suspected to be infected with the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) within the last 14 days. These checks can be done in person or through alternative methods such as on-line check in systems or through [signage](#) posted at the entrance to the facility stating that visitors with these symptoms should not enter the premises.
Scouts, leaders, family members and visitors must follow the screening guidelines as outline here.
- If the person has no symptoms and no contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, they can be cleared to participate for that day.
This applies to all outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities.
- If the person has had contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, they should be sent home immediately and asked to quarantine at home. Provide them with the quarantine instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidquarantine.
This applies to all outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities.
- If the person is showing any of the symptoms noted above, they should be sent home immediately and asked to isolate at home. Provide them with the isolation instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation.

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

This applies to all outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities.

- Until further notice, all youth sports activities must only take place outdoors. Teams may utilize a canopy, or other sun shelter, but only if the sides of the canopy or sun shelter are not closed and there is sufficient outdoor air movement.

This applies to all Scouting meetings and outdoor activities. No INDOOR Scout meetings and indoor activities are permitted at this time.

- All youth sporting events, including tournaments, events or competitions are not permitted at this time. Practice games among players of the same team (intra-squad games, scrimmages, and/or matches) are allowed for non-contact sports only. Non-contact sports include those sports that allow all players in the game, scrimmage or match to maintain an 8-foot distance between one another during competition (for example, singles tennis matches, golf matches, some track and field events).

All outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities shall be NON-CONTACT activities and maintain proper distancing and the use of the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

- Any areas where players are seated off-field or off-court (e.g., bench, dugout, bullpen) has been reconfigured to create additional seating such that players and employees are able to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet while in the area.

All outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities shall follow this seating protocol. At all times, participants will maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet.

- Youth sports programs should ensure that players remain in a stable cohort in order to limit the risk of transmission (see [CDC Guidance on Schools and Cohorting](#)).

This applies to all outdoor Scouting meetings and outdoor activities. Groups of Scouts will be in cohorts no larger than 10 Scouts, with 2 registered adult leaders (per BSA [Youth Protection Guidelines](#)) and will not mix with any other cohorts of Scouts to limit risk of transmission.

- Consider redesigning youth sports activities for smaller groups and rearranging practice and play spaces to maintain physical separation.

Scouting units will maintain small cohorts (no more than 10 youth, with 2 adults) to participate in outdoor meetings and outdoor activities. At all times, participants will maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet. Cohorts will maintain a physical distance of at least 10 feet from any other cohort.

- To the maximum extent practicable, players are encouraged to bring their own equipment (for example, bats, golf clubs, rackets) to practice and not share equipment. Players may engage in limited sharing of equipment, such as kicking a soccer ball between two players, or throwing a baseball, football, or frisbee as part of skill-building exercises. However, sharing of equipment in this manner should only be in designated pairs of players, not as a group activity. If equipment must be shared, it is disinfected between use by different people to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread.

Scouts will bring their own equipment. Scouts can engage in limited sharing of a ball or frisbee, etc., but only between TWO Scouts in the same cohort. Any equipment that must be shared must be disinfected after each use.

- Players, coaches, and employees are discouraged from making unnecessary physical contact with one another (for example, high-fives, handshakes, fist bumps) to limit the potential for disease to spread.

This applies to participants in all outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.

- Sports teams that have access to indoor bathroom and locker facilities may access them for the purposes of engaging in hand hygiene, changing, showering, and utilizing the rest rooms. Stagger visits to the locker room or rest rooms to allow for physical distancing while indoors.

As long as the proper spacing can be maintained, outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities may take place in a public area (for example, a park), at a Scout camp including Camp Verdugo Oaks (day use only).

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

on the personal property of a registered adult leader (e.g., a backyard), and on the outdoor property of the Chartered Organization. If the location has a public restroom, then stagger the visits to the restroom facilities to allow for distancing.

- Any locker rooms or restrooms that are in use are disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - Locker rooms
 - _____
 - Restrooms
 - _____
 - Other
 - _____

In planning the outdoor meeting or activity, Scout leaders should prepare a schedule like the one demonstrated above in the LA County Protocol. Leaders must be prepared with materials to disinfect the restrooms thoroughly at each facility prior to use by participants and during the meeting or activity.

- Players and coaches should use hand sanitizer when handwashing is not practicable. Sanitizer must be rubbed into hands until completely dry. Note: frequent handwashing is more effective than the use of hand sanitizers, especially when hands are visibly dirty.
This applies to all participants in outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Children under age 9 should use hand sanitizer under adult supervision. Call Poison Control if consumed: 1-800-222-1222. Ethyl alcohol-based hand sanitizers are preferred and should be used when there is the potential of unsupervised use by children. Isopropyl hand sanitizers are more toxic and can be absorbed through the skin.
This applies to all participants in outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Encourage players to bring their own pre-filled reusable or purchased water bottles. Water fountains are available to fill water bottles only. Players should not drink from the same beverage container or share beverages.
This applies to all participants in outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- When choosing cleaning products, use those approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list “N” and follow product instructions. These products contain ingredients which are safer for individuals with asthma.
This applies to all participants in outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times. Provide employees training on the hazards of the chemicals, manufacturer’s directions, and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use.
This applies to all Scout leaders. They will all follow directions on labels for proper use of disinfectants
- Custodial staff with the responsibility of cleaning and disinfecting the site must be equipped with proper protective equipment, including gloves, eye protection, respiratory protection, and other appropriate protective equipment as required by the product instructions. All products must be kept out of children’s reach and stored in a space with restricted access.
Scout Leaders must be prepared with materials to disinfect the bathrooms thoroughly at each facility prior and during the use by Scouts or Leaders. They must also have proper gloves, eye protection and appropriate protective equipment as required by product instructions.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick, or if they are exposed to a person who has COVID-19. Employees understand to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation and quarantine, if applicable. Workplace leave policies have been reviewed and modified to ensure that employees are not penalized when they stay home due to illness.

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

All Scouts and Scout Leaders will follow DPH guidance if they are exposed to COVID-19. Workplace policies do not apply to units.

- Workers are provided information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID-19, including employee's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 exposures occurring between March 19 and July 5 pursuant to the Governor's Executive [Order](#) N-62-20. **These workplace policies and protocols are not applicable to Scouts and volunteer Scout leaders.**
- Upon being informed that one or more employees, coaches, or players test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the team has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) [isolate themselves at home](#) and require the immediate [self-quarantine](#) of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The team or league's plan should consider a protocol for all quarantined individuals to have access to or be tested for COVID19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures. See the public health guidance on [responding to COVID-19 in the workplace](#).
Upon being informed that one or more Scouts or Scout leaders test positive for or has symptoms of COVID-19, the Scout or leader in question must isolate themselves at home, and others who participated in the small cohort must immediately self-quarantine. The council recommends that all persons in self-quarantine get tested for COVID-19.
- [Employee screenings](#) are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and if the employee has had contact with a person known to be infected COVID-19 in the last 14 days. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.
Scouts and Scout Leaders must perform a self-check at home prior to attending any group meeting or outdoor activity. Self-checks must include a check concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills, and if contact with a person known to be infected COVID-19 in the last 14 days has occurred. A temperature check should be done, as well.
- In the event that 3 or more cases are identified among the members of the youth sports team within a span of 14 days the coach or league should report this outbreak to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821. If a cluster is identified at a worksite, the Department of Public Health will initiate a cluster response which includes providing infection control guidance and recommendations, technical support and site-specific control measures. A public health case manager will be assigned to the cluster investigation to help guide the response.
In the event that 1 or more cases are identified among the small group of Scouts (cohort) involved with an outdoor meeting or activity within a span of 14 days the Scout Leader will report this outbreak to the Verdugo Hills Council, Andrew Sisolak Scout Executive and the council will notify the Department of Public Health. Leaders will submit the list of all people in the cohort and in attendance at the meeting or activity.
- Employees who have contact with others are offered, at no cost, an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering should wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves should not be used. Employees need not wear a face covering when the employee is alone in a private office or a cubicle with a solid partition that exceeds the height of the employee when standing.

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Scouts Leaders must wear a face covering that complies with State directives as indicated here.

- Employees are instructed to wash or replace their face coverings daily.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Employees, coaches, and youth team members have been reminded to adhere to personal prevention actions including:
The following actions apply to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Stay home until at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours after recovery, which means your fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medications and there is improvement in your symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath).
 - If you tested positive for COVID-19 but never had any symptoms, you must stay home until:
 - 10 days after the date of the first positive test, but
 - If you develop symptoms, you need to follow the instructions above.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Wash your hands before meals, after using the restroom and after coughing and sneezing.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow (not your hands).
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Do not touch your mouth, eyes, nose with unwashed hands.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Avoid sharing items such as phones or other devices. If devices must be shared be sure to wipe them down with a disinfectant wipe before and after sharing.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Constantly observe your work distances in relation to other staff and players. Always maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet separation from others unless specific work assignments require less distancing and wear a face cloth covering when working near or with others.
This applies to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. This should be done hourly during business hours. Scout leaders must be prepared with materials to thoroughly disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces at each facility prior and during the use by Scouts or leaders. They must also have proper gloves, eye protection and appropriate protective equipment as required by product instructions.
- Copies of this Protocol have been distributed to all employees, youth, and families.
Copies of this VHC Protocol must be distributed to all participants, leaders, and visitors at outdoor Scout meetings and activities.

B. MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- Group gatherings are prohibited, and benches and tables are removed or cordoned off because they can't be used.
- Commonly used items are sanitized regularly.
- Commonly used equipment is sanitized before and after each use.
- Restrooms are sanitized regularly.
- Water fountains are available to fill water bottles only.

These Maintenance Protocols apply to all outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.

C. MONITORING PROTOCOLS

- Instruction and information signage are posted throughout the facility regarding infection control, physical distancing and the use of face coverings. Online outlets of the youth sports program (website, social media etc.) provide clear information about physical distancing, use of face coverings and other issues.
Signage regarding infection control, physical distancing and the use of face coverings must be provided to Scout leaders and is on display at outdoor Scout meetings and activities. Online outlets of the Verdugo Hills Council provide clear information about physical distancing, use of face coverings and other issues.
- Signs are posted that instruct visitors that they should stay home if sick with respiratory symptoms. This applies to all outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities. This is the responsibility of the Scout leaders in charge of the outdoor meeting or outdoor activity.
- Coaches and league managers monitor compliance of posted restrictions. This is the responsibility of Scout leaders in charge of outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.
- Participants are asked to leave if not complying with these restrictions. This is the responsibility of Scout leaders in charge of outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities.

Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate pages, which the youth sports coordinator should attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:

Youth Sports Leadership Contact Name: David Potter E-mail David.Potter@vhcbsa.org Phone number: 818-378-7249

Date Last Revised: April 5, 2021

END of the LA County Reopening Protocol for Youth Sports Leagues (Revised 8/20/2020)

In addition to the above LA County Protocol and VHC annotations, all VHC units must abide by the following rules:

1. Each unit will notify the Verdugo Hills Council via e-mail of their intent to hold an outdoor meeting or outdoor activity. The following information must be sent to : VHCcovidregistration@vhcbsa.org
 - Date and time of the event
 - Type of event
 - Location of the event, including facility name and address.
 - Names and phone numbers of the leaders (at least two) in charge of the event.
2. The Scout leaders in charge will keep a list of all persons in attendance, including Scouts, leaders, family member, and visitors. This roster must include contact phone numbers. The Scout unit leadership will retain this list for a period of 6 months.

VERDUGO HILLS COUNCIL PROTOCOL FOR IN-PERSON OUTDOOR SCOUT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

3. For all outdoor Scout meetings and outdoor activities, a den, pack, patrol, or troop will meet in cohorts, as described above. A cohort is no more than 10 youth with 2 registered, YPT-trained leaders only.
4. Parents and guardians will maintain a 10-foot distance from the outdoor meeting or activity. Parents must only interact with their own children and dependents, keeping a safe distance (at least 10 feet) from others in the cohort.
5. At the outdoor meeting or activity, unit leaders must have the current BSA [Annual Health and Medical Record \(Parts A and B\)](#) for each registered Scout and leader who is present.
6. No camping is allowed at this time.
7. If your Unit wants to do a family camp you may. Each family would be considered a cohort.
8. No carpooling will be permitted at this time.
9. If a meal is involved, each person must bring their own food, and sharing is not allowed. Family group cooking is allowed, no sharing of baked goods, or fruits.
10. IMPORTANT: The Chartered Organization must approve any outdoor meeting or activity by any unit they sponsor. The Chartered Organization is the legal entity that is responsible for their Scouting program and activities.
11. Each outdoor activity and outdoor meeting must have an assigned health officer/compliance officer who is in charge of seeing that all protocols are followed.

This policy was approved by the Verdugo Hills Council board on 09/16/2020.

This policy was reviewed 4/5/2021 and will update and revise as needed