

GSUSA Guidance to Councils—COVID-19 Vaccinations FAQs for Girl Scout Councils, Parents and Volunteers

March 2021

- 1. Once adults are permitted to receive the COVID-19 vaccination in their home state, are volunteers required to be vaccinated before they can meet in person with girls?**
Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) strongly encourages, but does not require, vaccination for volunteers. **Girl Scouts of Southeastern New England (GSSNE) does NOT require its members to get the Covid-19 vaccination.** State laws vary, so please check your local government requirements for specific vaccine protocols in your jurisdiction.
- 2. Can council staff members inquire about the vaccination status of volunteers?**
Unless your council has specifically mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for its volunteers, council staff should not inquire about a volunteer's vaccination status. Deciding to receive a vaccine is a personal decision and GSSNE encourages our staff and members to respect the privacy of fellow members and their families.
- 3. Can parents/caregivers ask about the vaccination status of volunteers?**
While parents/caregivers may certainly ask, volunteers are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status. Also, under no circumstances should a volunteer discuss the personal healthcare decisions of another volunteer with anyone.
- 4. Can parents/caregivers or volunteers ask about the vaccination status of council staff and camp staff?**
While parents/caregivers may certainly ask and GSSNE strongly encourages all council staff members who can get vaccinated to become vaccinated when the vaccine is available to them, council staff are under no obligation to disclose their personal vaccination status. Under no circumstances should one staff member discuss the personal healthcare decisions of another staff member with anyone. However, a council may disclose whether it has either mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for its staff or has strongly recommended COVID-19 vaccinations for its staff.
- 5. Can parents/caregivers ask other parents/caregivers about the vaccination status of girls in the troop?**
Parents/caregivers are certainly free to discuss vaccinations with other parents/caregivers when both parties are open to that conversation. However, parents/caregivers should not feel obligated to share personal medical information if they choose to maintain their privacy in the matter. GSSNE encourages parents/caregivers to respect the privacy of the girls and other adults in their girl's troop.
- 6. Once vaccinations for children are available, can councils or troop leaders require girls to be vaccinated before they attend in-person activities?**
COVID-19 vaccines are not expected to become available for children before the end of 2021. Councils are encouraged to stay abreast of state regulations and the protocols that are practiced in public schools and use that information to inform their policies.

- 7. Once someone is vaccinated, do they have to continue to practice the safety protocols as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), such as social distancing, washing their hands frequently, and wearing a mask?**

Yes. For the protection of all members as well as the families and communities we serve, GSSNE will continue to practice, and encourage all members of the Movement to practice, all CDC-recommended health and safety protocols, regardless of whether or not an individual has received the vaccine.