



21st Romsey (Nursling & Rownhams) Scout Group

Scout Association number: 10014441 Registered charity number: 302269



Coronavirus update number 3

Our “Welcome Back” Plan: September 2020

Background: colour-coding

Thanks for sticking with us through last term – I guess we are all much more proficient with Zoom now! As lockdown eases the *maximum* level of activity that the sections can do is determined nationally, by the Scout Association. In brief there is a colour-coded arrangement from Red (no face-to-face meetings), through Amber (can meet outdoors), then Yellow (can meet indoors or out), to Green (more-or-less back to normal Scouting - whatever the new normal may be).

Within the Amber and Yellow stages there will be additional restrictions on the size of the group (to avoid confusion I’ll refer to that as a pod). For example, at the end of July the situation changed from Red to Amber, but the maximum number in the pod, including leaders, was 15. If the pandemic continues to ease that number might be increased. Conversely if things worsened, either locally or nationally, we might be back to Red.

Social distancing

The reason I’m referring to “pods”, rather than “bubbles” is that our sections cover too wide a range of year-groups and schools to be a bubble, as a school class or two families might be. Therefore, the people in the pods will still have to maintain social distancing, in accordance with current government guidelines. In practice that means keeping two metres apart if possible, or “one metre plus” when it’s not. The “plus” refers to a range of actions, as described in this document, to reduce the risk of viral-transfer.

Can you help?

Clearly, with all of our sections having well over 20 members (in some cases over 30) it will not be possible for the whole section to meet as one for quite some time. Nor is it reasonable to ask leaders to give up two or three evenings per week to run repeat sessions – even if there were enough days in the week! Rather, the leaders may plan to run both Zoom and face-to-face sessions, with a rotation of pods to ensure all the section members get the same programme.

Alternatively, they may want to run two or three pods in parallel – doing the same thing, at the same time, but separately. For example, one pod could meet in the grounds of the HQ, another in the Jubilee Field and another on the recreation ground. However, to make that possible they will need more adult help as we also have to comply with the normal safeguarding and safety ratio of adults to children. Generally, that means at least one leader and another adult with each pod, more for off-site activities. Therefore, if the leader of your child’s section asks for help from parents, I hope that you will step forward if you can. You will be given clear guidance about what is required – probably assisting the young people in much the same as you have done during “Scouting at Home”, but socially distanced. If you were to help regularly a DBS check would be required, but we’ll cross that bridge if it comes to it.

If, for whatever reason, we are unable to run face-to-face meetings we will try to continue with Zoom ones. However, for safeguarding purposes and to ensure smooth running of the session, these also need one or two adults in addition the primary leader, so I hope that you would also volunteer for these if asked.

The general plan

Should you wish to see the full, District-approved risk assessment for your child's section they are available at <https://21stromsey.co.uk/members/members-information/covid-19-risk-assessments/> .

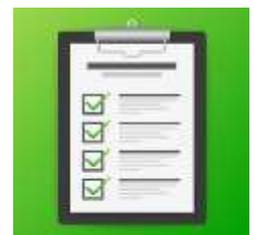
The following explains the preparations that are common to all sections of 21st Romsey Scout Group (they do not necessarily include Draco Explorers as that comes under the District's remit, rather than the Group's). It is likely that sections will have a few specific add-ons – these will be communicated to you separately, by the section leader.

What if a child or member of your household has symptoms of Covid-19?

- If your child is ill they must stay at home and not take part in face-to-face Scouting activities.
- If they, or any member of your household, has symptoms of Covid-19 the household must follow the government guidance, staying at home and arranging to be tested <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. The child must only return to face-to-face Scouting when the isolation period is over.

What if a child or leader shows symptoms of Covid-19 during the session?

- In the unlikely event that a child presents with symptoms during a section session they will be moved away from the rest of the group, but under the observation of one of the adults, who will wear a mask and disposable gloves as necessary. The parent / carer will be contacted to collect the child, and an explanation given. The parent should arrange for the child to be tested and the result communicated to me, as Group Scout Leader, in case we need to provide information to the official test, track and trace system.
- A leader showing symptoms will return home and arrange for a test. The remaining leader(s) will continue the session if the required adult to child ratios can be maintained.
- Whilst the parents of other children who were present will be contacted, this will be for information only. Our arrangements will minimise the risk of transmission, so you only need to take action if specifically advised to by "test, track and trace" or if your own child develops symptoms.
- Leaders will keep a register on OSM of those present at each meeting. Please log-in to OSM and check that the details of your child and their primary carer are complete and correct. This includes your 'phone number, email address and postal address. You can edit your own information if necessary, but contact your section leader if you have any problem.



What will the start and end of the session look like?

- We ask that the young people wash their hands immediately before they leave home and on return. To reduce the use of toilets at the HQ it would also be helpful if they go before leaving home.
- We will be implementing rigorous hygiene routines, including cleaning of key surfaces and equipment prior to each meeting. Please give the leaders time to do this by arriving no more than 5 minutes before the scheduled start time. You may be asked to wait outside the gate to the HQ compound, or along the path from the pedestrian entrance, in which case please observe social distancing.
- If you have two or more children, such that you are collecting a Beaver at the same time as dropping-off a Cub, liaise with the section leaders about the timing of your arrival and maintain social distancing during the changeover.
- To avoid bunching and crossing of people by the gate there will be a one-way system – please follow the directions of the leaders.
- Young people will be met by an adult helper / leader and required to gel their hands. They will also be required to use the gel at the end of the session. The gel contains 70% alcohol, if your child cannot use this please provide an equally effective alternative.
- They will be directed to a position where they can wait for the session to begin.
- To reduce the risk of contaminating surfaces, and to maintain distancing, parents should not enter the HQ building but wait outside. Your child will be brought to you at the end of the session.



What will the sessions be like?

- As previously mentioned, we need to maintain social distancing throughout the session at a minimum of “one metre plus”, so the young people will be reminded of this. In the unlikely event that a child refuses to comply their parent will be asked to come to collect them.
- Where it is possible, handling of equipment by numerous people will be reduced or avoided. You may be asked to provide your child with their own drink or with stationery items such as pens and scissors.
- Where equipment is shared it will be sanitised before use and, if possible, at intervals during use.
- Hand-gelling may be required during the session, for example when changing to a different activity.
- Where necessary the young people will be sat next to each other, though still >1m distance, rather than face to face.
- The kitchen will be strictly out of bounds to young people. Should they need a drink, but have not brought their own, an adult will prepare it for them. After use the beaker will be washed in hot, soapy water, then rinsed and dried.

- Owing to the small room-size of the toilet facilities at the HQ, only one person at a time will be permitted to enter each one.
- If it is necessary to administer first-aid the first-aider will put on disposable gloves and a mask. The only exception being if delay in treatment would be a serious risk to the casualty.

What if I do not wish my child to attend?

Having understood the precautions we are putting in place, each family must assess their own position and decide whether their child should attend or not. However, if your child does come to a meeting we will assume that they have your permission to be there. If you decide that they should not attend please liaise with the section leader to see how we can continue to keep them involved.

Membership fees

Having suspended the collection of membership fees for last term, normal payments will recommence for the Autumn Term – the 4 months beginning with the monthly payment initiated at the end of August. (For the few that pay termly, the 4-month payment due at the beginning of October). If your child is in the same section as they were at Easter you do not have to do anything, payments will resume automatically. If they are new to the Group, or have changed section, you may have to set up a new direct debit – go to the payments area of OSM and join the membership fee schedule. Further information is in the members' area of the Group web-site, or contact me if you need advice.

We are conscious that for some this has been, and may still be, a difficult time financially. It is the policy of the Group that no young person should be excluded from Scouting activities on financial grounds. If you are not able to pay please discuss this in confidence with me – it is normally possible to arrange some subsidy from Group and District funds.

Census

In my last update I said that the Scout Association were intending to bring forward the January 2021 national census to October. This idea has been shelved, realising that the data would not be accurate when Groups would still be emerging from lockdown. The next census will be at the end of January, as originally planned, however the long-term intention is still to move the census to autumn, so maybe next year.

I sincerely hope that we will be seeing the smiling faces of our young people face-to-face very soon. Until then, keep safe and have a good summer.

Randell McKay
Group Scout Leader
on behalf of Section Leaders

email: gsl@21stromsey.co.uk

10 August 2020

Date for the diary: Group Annual General Meeting, via Zoom.
7.30pm Wednesday, 16th September
Zoom link and supporting documents will be issued by email a week beforehand