



**BSA Outdoor Programs
COVID-19 Related
Program Area
Recommendations:**

Aquatics

COPE & Climbing

Shooting Sports

Disclaimer

The following information is intended to offer guidance to assist BSA councils and camp programs to address COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) in aquatic, COPE & climbing or shooting sports areas.

The materials provided reflect the best available information at the time they were prepared. It is possible that the strategies and concepts outlined in the materials may change as understanding evolves regarding the unique challenges that COVID-19 poses. As such, information or resources provided or made available may adjust as the COVID-19 situation continues to change.

In addition, as always, the information provided here should be utilized as a tool and a resource but must be viewed under the lens of what is currently allowable in your local area and within your state.

Introduction

Materials provided herein are a compilation of multiple sources. Those resources include but are not limited to:

- White House Guidelines “Opening Up America Again”
- Center for Disease Control
- American Camp Association
- American Red Cross
- American Canoe Association
- Association of Challenge Course Technology
- Many, many more....

Resource Links

- [Camp Director Resource Page](#) – resource listing for summer camp operations, including some that follow. This link to the Outdoor Programs webpage on www.scouting.org is a good place to start for guidance on all aspects of BSA summer camp operation, including aquatics. In particular, look for the Webinar Series for additional information on these topics and more.
- [CDC Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps](#)
- [American Camp Association Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020](#) See Chap 4 for Aquatics Facility Operations and Chap 7 for Aquatics Activities

Additional Guidance from BSA

- [National Statement on Covid-19](#)
- [BSA Covid-19 FAQ](#)
- [Model Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist \(COVID-19 version\)](#)
- **At Risk Statement** Distributed to councils in May 2020.

CDC “Concentric Circle” Concept

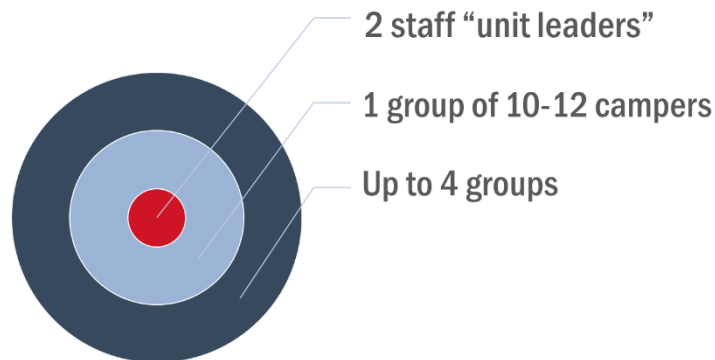
The following two pages showcase the CDC concept of minimizing camper interaction. The more people a camper or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

From the American Camp Association, “Limiting mixing of groups can be combined with a public health approach of establishing and maintaining “concentric group circles” for infection prevention and control. Infection spread can be slowed and more easily contained in smaller groups; when larger groups are required, it is beneficial if they consistently are comprised of the same constituent smaller groups, thereby limiting the number of potential contacts for each camper. In the event of an outbreak, being able to promptly define the “inner circle” of close contacts is paramount for enhanced health surveillance and isolation. By using the small groups and cohort strategy, isolation and surveillance of close contacts can be implemented in short order.”

The following are designed to be used only as samples for following the cohort model. There are many ways to follow the cohort model and offer Scouting programs at camp.

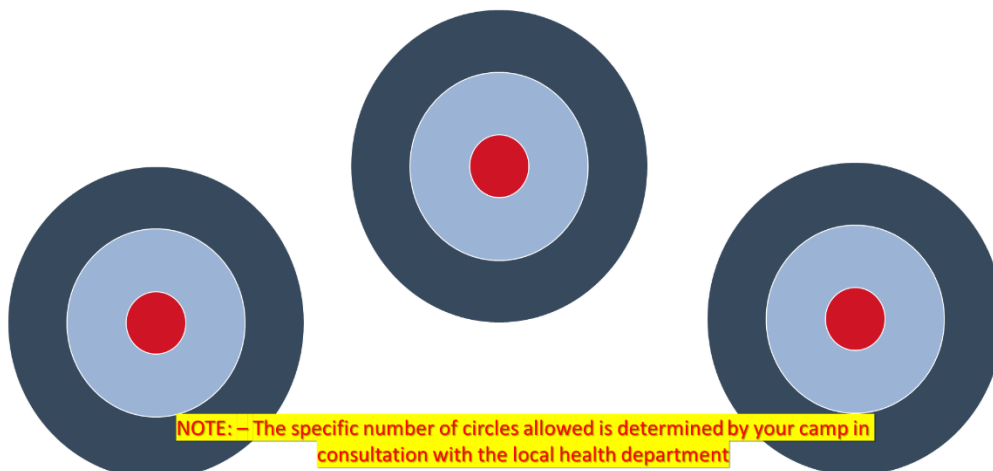
CDC Camp Guidance "Concentric Circles"

Also known as "cohorts"



**NOTE: This is only a sample.
The use and interpretation of the circles is between your camp and the local health department.**

CDC Camp Guidance – "Concentric Circles"



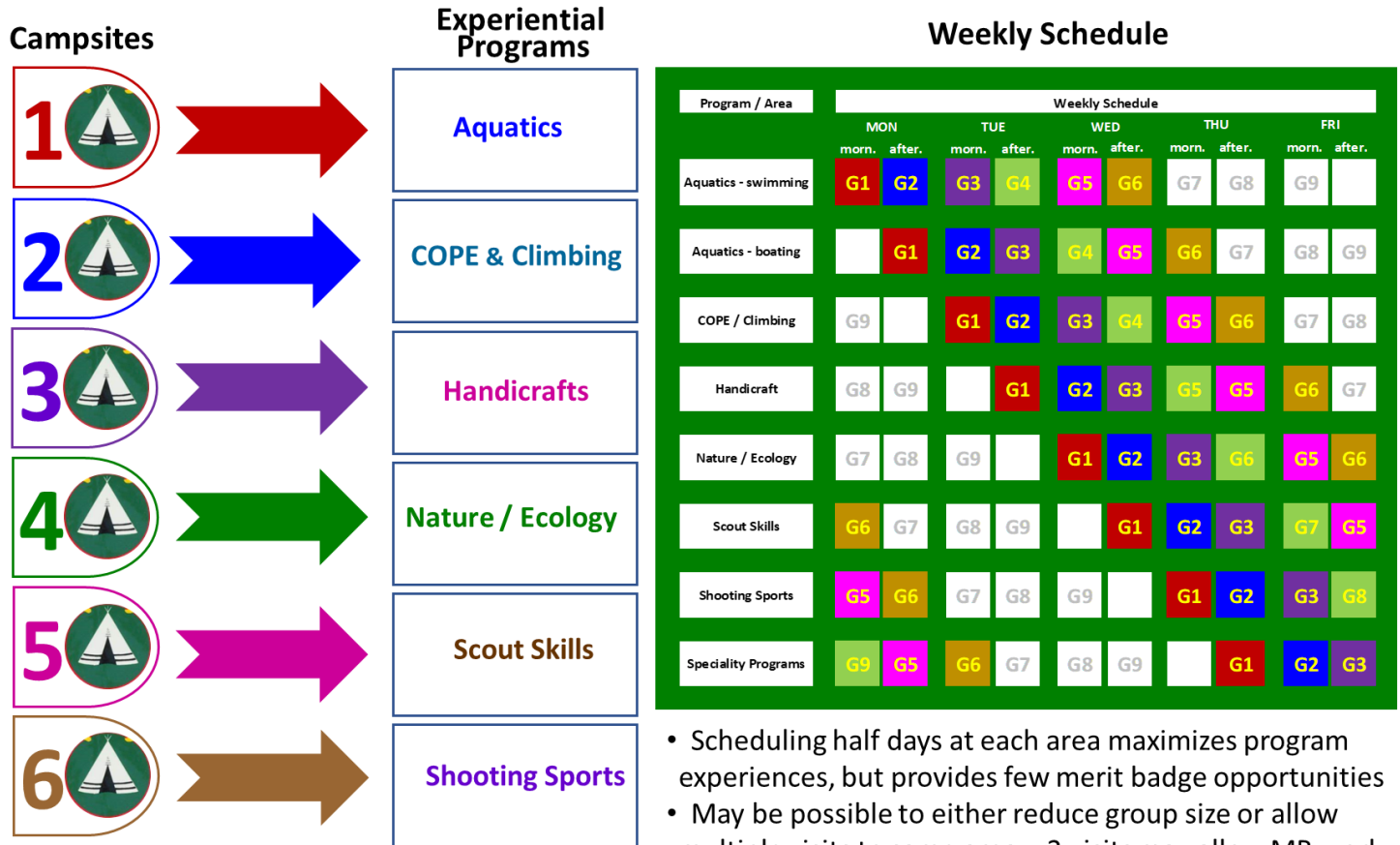
NOTE: – The specific number of circles allowed is determined by your camp in consultation with the local health department

CDC Camp Guidance

BSA Sample Rotation Concept

DRAFT IDEAS

ROTATIONS	Shooting Sports	Climbing	Aquatics
Rotation #1	CC Group 1	CC Group 2	CC Group 3
Rotation #2	CC Group 3	CC Group 1	CC Group 2
Rotation #3	CC Group 2	CC Group 3	CC Group 1



- Scheduling half days at each area maximizes program experiences, but provides few merit badge opportunities
- May be possible to either reduce group size or allow multiple visits to same area – 2 visits may allow MB work

Aquatics COVID-19 Decision Matrix

Description	Decision/Recommendation
Aquatics Standards	All BSA policies and procedures, such as Safe Swim Defense, Safety Afloat and staff qualifications, assessments, and training must be met. If state or local regulations regarding Covid-19 preclude meeting NCAP standards for specific activities, then those activities must not operate.
BSA Lifeguard Training and Pre-camp Lifeguard Skill Assessments	Form Aquatics staff into a cohort. Aquatics staff should then follow recommended guidance on cohort movement in camp and at the program area. Lifeguard skill assessments and training can then proceed as required by NCAP with modifications for minimizing exposure as advised by the American Red Cross resource listed below.
Swim Tests	There are no changes to swim test requirements. Encourage units to take swim tests in advance if feasible. At camp, perform swim tests by cohort group. Understand the increased time commitment to manage the flow of cohorts in and out of the swim area to maintain social distance between cohorts and the time required to properly perform the test.
In Water Instruction	Perform in-water instruction by cohort group. Proper distancing between the instructors and participants, who are in different cohorts, must occur. Even within the cohort, efforts should be in place to minimize close proximity and contact for skills requiring personal contact, such as the Huddle position for Swimming MB or water rescues for Lifesaving MB. Consider adding lane lines and 6 ft markers to facilitate distancing between cohort groups. The types of instruction you can offer at the same time will depend on the space you have in your swimming area while maintaining 6 feet of distance between cohorts and the number of staff you have available to teach.
Free Swim	Free swim should be run within the cohort model. Split the swim area/pool with ropes to create separate space in each swimming ability area to maintain distance between cohorts. This separation of the swim areas based on the space needed by your cohort size will determine the number of cohorts that can swim at the same time. Buddies should be assigned only from within the cohort. As usual, a buddy pair swims in their ability area if they are classified the same or in the swim area of the buddy with the lower swim classification. For buddy checks, have buddies get close enough to touch fingers with arms extended. (Even within cohorts, distancing should be encouraged.)

Face Coverings	<p>Follow CDC recommendation that Lifeguards wear a face covering while guarding. However, Guards should remove the face covering if they need to enter the water for any reason.</p> <p>Other Aquatics Staff should wear face coverings because their duties may not always allow them to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Timing of Aquatics Staff rotations should take into consideration "face covering fatigue" and potential overheating issues from wearing the face coverings.</p> <p>Campers should wear a face covering around the swimming and boating areas if required locally; however it must not be worn in the water per CDC guidance.</p>
Multi-person Boating	<p>Recreational and instructional boating activity should take place by cohort.</p> <p>Programs that require the instructor and participants to be in the same boat (e.g., motorboating, water sports) cannot be offered if social distancing cannot be maintained between the instructor and participants.</p>
Water Carnivals and Other Aquatics Special Events	<p>Could do for one cohort at a time on a rotation basis or discontinue for 2020.</p>
Facilities and Social Distancing	<p>Docks and Pool Decks will need to be assessed locally to determine whether 6 ft social distance requirements between cohorts can practically be implemented (e.g., one way movement only around a pool deck, stop and go movement where docks are too narrow for side by side passing, swim lane set up outside normal swim boundary for swimmers area access, etc.)</p> <p>Local procedures will need to be developed for congestion points where 6 ft distancing between cohorts may be a challenge (e.g., gates into areas, buddy board entrance/exit lanes, Lifejacket racks, paddle racks, etc.)</p> <p>Physical barriers and visual cues (e.g., rope lanes, tape markings, flags, etc.) will likely be needed to help with distancing between cohorts.</p>
Capacity	<p>Each local facility will need to determine capacity allowing for a 6-foot buffer around cohort groups based on the size and shape of their Aquatics areas. Also see items 5 and 9 above.</p>
Life Jacket Disinfecting Between Use	<p>Follow American Camp Association cleaning guidelines for life jackets -- hand wash lifejackets in hot soapy water, allow them to dry and spray them with alcohol-based disinfectant.</p> <p>An option would be to allow participants to bring their own properly fitted Lifejacket from home.</p>

<p>Aquatics Play Structures Disinfecting</p>	<p>Play Structures must be disinfected between cohort groups.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the feasibility of these activities (e.g., Blobs, Icebergs, Rockers, Mats, Climbing Structures, etc) because of the need to disinfect them between cohorts. Will the resulting reduced throughput and increased staff needed to do the disinfecting make this a practical activity?</p> <p>Special consideration is needed for Aquatics Play Structures in natural bodies of water due to the chlorine/bleach that will end up in the water and the impact on swimmers and the ecology of the body of water.</p>
<p>Disinfecting Plan</p>	<p>A coordinated disinfecting plan including quality monitoring will need to be developed at each camp based on their local facilities. Follow all CDC and manufacturers' guidance based on material type (porous, nonporous, etc.)</p> <p>Decisions about the type of Aquatics activities to conduct should include consideration of their disinfecting requirements, especially for shared equipment (e.g., are you set up to disinfect masks and snorkels after every use?)</p> <p>An option is to encourage campers to bring equipment from home (must be proper type etc...) life jackets, snorkels, masks etc.</p> <p>At a minimum, your disinfecting plan should include: wash or disinfecting stands for entering and exiting the Aquatics area, identification of and a plan for frequently touched surfaces including how often they need to be disinfected, labeled spots or containers for equipment (including Lifejackets, paddles, oars and other shared items) that needs to be disinfected between uses, labeled spots or containers for clean equipment, safe storage of disinfecting products, staffing model for disinfecting that does not require Lifeguards or staff monitoring boaters and participants to do the disinfecting</p> <p>Note: The CDC states that there is not enough chlorine in pool water to disinfect shared items.</p>
<p>Water Quality Standards</p>	<p>Follow normal local health department guidelines for testing and treatment of both pool and natural bodies of water.</p> <p>The CDC does not recommend increasing concentrations of pool chemicals above normal levels.</p> <p>There is little evidence for or against transmission of the Covid-19 virus in untreated bodies of water, but the CDC considers the risk as minimal, particularly compared with swimmer to swimmer direct transmission.</p>

<p>CPR</p>	<p>Follow the recommendations of the American Red Cross from the document listed below. "Ventilations should be performed using a BVM with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration in the exhalation path per manufacturer recommendations as feasible. BVM ventilation provides distancing of the provider’s face from the victim’s face, providing the best protection from transmission. While ventilations using a pocket mask with a one-way valve does provide protection compared with mouth to mouth ventilations, it puts the provider in close contact with the victim and does not facilitate the use of a HEPA filter. BVM ventilation is best delivered with two rescuers, but in the absence of sufficient rescuers a BVM can be used by one provider."</p> <p>To protect your Aquatics staff, a Bag Value Mask with HEPA filter must be at your Aquatics area.</p>
<p>Communication/Messaging Plan</p>	<p>Develop a communications/messaging plan to explain to participants the procedures and practices you expect them to follow to ensure the safety of all.</p> <p>This plan should include many of the items from above as well as general safety items such as not to swallow the swimming water and not to spit or urinate in the water.</p>
<p>COVID-19 Resources for BSA Aquatics</p>	<p><i>Instructional and Recreational Swimming, Lifesaving, and Lifeguarding:</i></p> <p>CDC Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19.</p> <p>American Red Cross Scientific Advisory Council Answers COVID-19 and Aquatics</p> <p>Top 5 Camp Aquatics Questions during COVID-19 From Redwoods Group</p> <p><i>Boating:</i></p> <p>COVID-19 Guidelines for Instructors and Event Organizers From American Canoe Association, includes numerous links to other organizations, for example US Sailing: Guidance for Junior Sailing Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic</p>

COPE & Climbing COVID-19 Decision Matrix

Description	Recommendation
<p>COPE & Climbing Standards, especially</p> <p>PS-206</p> <p>SQ-409</p>	<p><i>All BSA policies and procedures, such as Climb on Safely and staff qualifications, assessments, and training must be met.</i></p> <p>If state or local regulations regarding COVID-19 preclude meeting NCAP standards for specific activities, then those activities must not operate.</p>
<p>BSA COPE & Climbing Training</p>	<p>Form COPE and/or Climbing staff into a cohort. Staff should then follow recommended guidance on cohort movement in camp and at the program area. COPE & Climbing training can then proceed as required by NCAP with modifications for minimizing exposure.</p>
<p>Hygiene & Equipment</p>	<p>Wash hands before and after climb.</p> <p>Wear personal gloves.</p> <p>Assigned harness/helmet for the week.</p> <p>Bring own useable harness/helmet and inspected on site by director/instructor.</p>
<p>Hand Sanitizer</p>	<p>Ensure hand sanitizer evaporates before touching equipment.</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>COPE & Climbing staff should wear face coverings because their duties may not always allow them to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Timing of COPE & Climbing Staff rotations should take into consideration "face covering fatigue" and potential overheating issues from wearing the face coverings.</p> <p>Cloth face coverings or masks shouldn't limit vision It should be considered whether face coverings should be worn in situations where there is a high level of physical activity, and a face covering might obstruct breathing.</p> <p>Campers should wear a face covering if required locally; however ensure communication between climber, belayer and instructor can be heard.</p>
<p>Program Recommendations</p>	<p>The very nature of some of the elements of our BSA COPE program are inherently designed to encourage "close-quarter" activities and physically support each other. This may cause some traditional COPE initiative, low or high ropes programs to be temporarily eliminated.</p> <p>However, many feasible and innovative modifications can be made!</p>

<p>Example Adjustments</p>	<p>On Nitro Crossing: rather than a platform, have participants land on a disc or spot, then move to additional discs or spots in order to make room for their group members. Add an additional challenge by allowing each spot to only have a certain amount of “touches” by the group.</p> <p>On TP Shuffle: add more space and extend the element if possible or create a “fishbowl” environment with half the group. Add a limited number of “safe zones” on the ground (marked by hula hoops, rope, or webbing loops) at intervals alongside the activity. The group will need to plan the order of their reorders to allow for there to be enough space for all as they move around and let each other transfer through safe zones. Add an additional challenge by allowing a limited number of touches per safe zone.</p> <p>On Whale Watch: create a circle around the Whale Watch and designate two points of entry, one on either side of the fulcrum. Have two participants enter, balance, move to opposite sides of the Whale Watch, and keep the whale watch balanced while a third participant enters to the center. The first participant exits while the third participant takes their side of the whale watch and balances with the second participant. One participant at a time enters and exits the whale watch, trading places as they go.</p> <p>On Group Wall: Use the wall as a wall in a more traditional sense. Divide the group in half and provide a challenge where the two halves need to complete a task in tandem out of sight from each other on opposite sides of the wall. Allow the group to designate one or two members to be stationed at the top of the wall in a coaching position. Maybe limit the number of “hints” these coaches are allowed to provide to their team. What’s the task? You decide – time to get creative!</p>
<p>General Course Cleaning Recommendation</p>	<p>First, remove all contaminants and build-up (dirt, grease, etc.) from the area/component of the course that you’re cleaning, then fully clean the entire product with a solution of plain water and mild soap. Because liquid dish soaps are formulated to be used by hand, mild dish soap is a common choice.</p> <p>Use soft items to lightly scrub any high traffic zones and common touchpoints. Mitts, such as those typically used to wash a car, will be easier to manage at height and avoid drop.</p> <p>Areas cleaned with soap should be rinsed/sprayed with plain water after cleaning to avoid buildup and attraction of contaminants.</p> <p>Let the course component air dry. Application of heat or fans should be unnecessary.</p>
<p>Focus on High Traffic & High Touch Areas</p>	<p>Ladders – the entire surface</p> <p>Rock holds</p> <p>Stair/entry railings</p> <p>Giant swing bars</p> <p>Surfaces at entry/exit points or other areas where people pause</p>

	<p>Handhold ropes and “grab” objects on high and low elements</p> <p>Transfer stations for continuous belay systems</p> <p>Guy or element cables that may be grabbed due to encroachment into a path</p> <p>Terminations of cables that are likely to be grabbed during transfer or while waiting</p> <p>Ropes used on entries or during a change of levels</p> <p>Materials used for possible initiative games</p>
<p>Strategy to Program Around Cleaning</p>	<p>Example Strategy: Reduced course usage to allow for cleaning</p> <p>One ½ morning and one ½ afternoon group vs. two morning and two afternoon groups; clean high touchpoints in between groups</p> <p>Pattern programming - DAY 1: One morning and one evening group, clean course in the afternoon Day 2: One afternoon group; clean in morning and evening</p> <p>All options for altered usage will require lower course capacity than is probably typical, as well as more staff time cleaning the course.</p>
<p>Equipment - Cleaning (“Softwear”)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ropes *Harnesses *Gloves *Helmet Straps <p><i>Anything that touches the body</i></p>	<p>Follow manufacture guidelines. Clean with soap/water and then utilize an approved disinfectant by manufacturer. <i>You must never use any chemical other than mild soaps (including bleach, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Lysol/Clorox wipes, or other disinfecting products) that are not expressly authorized in writing by the equipment manufacturer.</i></p> <p>Allow equipment to dry outside or in a well-ventilated area. Avoid prolonged time in direct sunlight unless it is allowable by the equipment manufacturer. Do not machine dry equipment under any circumstances.</p> <p>Camps could encourage individuals to bring their own appropriate equipment such as helmets and/or harnesses(must be checked on site (CHECK) including gloves. Camps may need additional inventory to ensure they can dry equipment between cohort group use.</p>
<p>Equipment - Cleaning (“Hardware” & Structures)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Helmets * Belay Devices *Rappel Devices *Carabineers *Climbing Structures 	<p>Clean and disinfect between cohort groups.</p> <p><i>You must never use any chemical other than mild soaps (including bleach, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, Lysol/Clorox wipes, or other disinfecting products) that are not expressly authorized in writing by the equipment manufacturer.</i></p>

<p>Area Sanitation</p>	<p>Follow camp sanitation protocols. Utilize EPA approved COVID-19 disinfectants recommended by CDC. Be mindful of required contact times depending upon product.</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2</p>
<p>COVID-19 Resources for BSA COPE & Climbing</p>	<p>ACCT COVID-19 Resources Link</p> <p>Gear manufacturer recommendations Link (not all are included, not maintained by the BSA)</p> <p>PPE Limitations and Tolerances when exposed to cleaning agents and disinfectants – A paper from Edelrid: Link</p> <p>Closing Your Course ACCT “Mothball” Checklist Link</p> <p>Alliance Collaborative Resource Link</p>

Shooting Sports COVID-19 Decision Matrix

Description	Recommendation
<p>National Standards, especially</p> <p>PS-213, PS-214</p> <p>SQ-407, SQ-408</p>	<p><i>All BSA policies and procedures, Safely and staff qualifications, assessments, and training must be met.</i></p> <p>If state or local regulations regarding COVID-19 preclude meeting NCAP standards for specific activities, then those activities must not operate.</p> <p>All policies should be written as an addendum to the SOPs.</p>
<p>Shooting Sports Training & Cohort</p>	<p>All staff must be trained for their position per NCAP & Guide to Safe Scouting standards.</p> <p>Form shooting sports staff into a cohort. Staff should then follow recommended guidance on cohort movement in camp and at the program area.</p>
<p>Hygiene & Personal Equipment</p>	<p>Wash hands before and after you enter the shooting sports area.</p> <p>Best practice option— Shooters bag per person with ear foamies, eyeglasses, face covering for use during the week. Shooters could also purchase and take home.</p> <p>Recommend not wearing earmuffs; or if worn, assigning to a single person for the week and clean and disinfect between weeks or between cohort groups.</p> <p>Best practice option - Have each shooter provide their own arm and finger tabs if possible and ensure they fit properly.</p>
<p>Face Coverings</p>	<p>Shooting Sports staff should wear face coverings because their duties may not always allow them to maintain social distancing. Face coverings are not recommended for shooter when participating in archery.</p> <p>Timing of Shooting Sports Staff rotations should take into consideration "face covering fatigue" and potential overheating issues from wearing the face coverings.</p> <p>Cloth face coverings or masks shouldn't limit vision It should be considered whether face coverings should be worn in situations where there is a high level of physical activity, and a face covering might obstruct breathing.</p> <p>Campers should wear a face covering if required locally; however ensure communication between shooter and Range staff can be heard.</p>
<p>Facilities and Social Distancing</p>	<p>Capacity of shooting sports areas may need to be examined including number of shooting positions, waiting areas, teaching areas and waiting area outside the "gate".</p> <p>Local procedures will need to be adapted for congestion points that do not allow 6 ft of physical distancing.</p>

<p>Program Guidance</p>	<p><i>Rifle/BB Gun/ Pellet Gun/Archery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No coach method – instructor walks the line. • All non-shooters behind the line. • Maintain 6-foot distance between shooting stations. • Control waiting line entrance to area. • Archery: Rotate arrows between shooters, clean and sanitize arrows between use. • Additional consideration for BB/Cub Scout Archery – Be mindful of parents helping on the line with their Scout. <p><i>Shotgun/Cowboy Action/Chalk Ball/Pistol/Muzzle Loading</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooter and instructor should wear face coverings. • Instructor/shooter method of instruction. • Again, reminder about handwashing before entry and upon exit. • Instructor sanitizes hands between shooters. • Additional Consideration for Chalk ball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take special care when cleaning the face shield to ensure all parts are thoroughly disinfected. ○ Instructor preloads reservoir. • Additional consideration for Muzzle loader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Instructor could wear gloves and change gloves and wash hands between shooters. <p><i>Sporting Arrows</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional requirements – this activity is easily accomplished with social distance. <p><i>Open Shoots</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troop or Cohort groups scheduled. • No crossing of cohorts. • Clean and sanitize between cohorts. • Ensure control of the waiting line.
<p>Cleaning Recommendations</p>	<p>As always, follow manufacture guidelines for all your equipment cleaning.</p> <p><i>Clean and disinfect between cohort groups.</i></p> <p>Clean with soap/water and then utilize an approved disinfectant by manufacturer. Wiping and cleaning a surface first: then using a disinfectant, according to the label instructions, for proper "dwell time" (how long disinfectant stays wet on the surface) is a key twostep process.</p> <p>Cleaning refers to the removal of germs, dirt, and impurities from surfaces. Cleaning does not kill germs, but by removing them, it lowers their numbers and the risk of spreading infection.</p>

	<p>Disinfecting refers to using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs, but by killing germs on a surface after cleaning, it can further lower the risk of spreading infection.</p> <p>We do not recommend some of the other products with ingredients such as bleach and/or hydrogen peroxide (as they may damage some surfaces on a firearm).</p> <p><i>Potential Recommended products:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 777-91 Quaternary ammonium CITRUS SCENT LYSOL BRAND ANTIBACTERIAL KITCHEN CLEANER II RECKITT BENCKISER LLC. Coronavirus 2 minutes RTU Y 3/3/2020 <p><i>FROM N-LIST EPA-https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5813-79 Quaternary ammonium Clorox Disinfecting Wipes The Clorox Company Rotavirus 4 minutes WIPE Y 3/3/2020 • 9480-5 Quaternary ammonium SANI-CLOTH GERMICIDAL DISPOSABLE CLOTH PROFESSIONAL DISPOSABLES INTERNATIONAL, INC. Coronavirus 3 minutes WIPE Y 3/3/2020 • 9480-4 Quaternary ammonium SANI-CLOTH GERMICIDAL WIPES PROFESSIONAL DISPOSABLES INTERNATIONAL, INC. Coronavirus 2 minutes WIPE Y 3/3/2020
<p>Area Sanitation</p>	<p>Follow camp sanitation protocols. Utilize EPA approved COVID-19 disinfectants recommended by CDC. Be mindful of required contact times depending upon product.</p> <p>https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2</p>