Membership/Participation
Regarding Communicable Diseases Framework

Individually with communicable diseases—both the acute, which are sudden in their onset, and the chronic, which have been present for a longer period—may be present in our communities. Scouting’s guiding principles regarding communicable diseases include:

1. The responsibility for management of a medical condition(s) lies with the individual or the individual’s parent or guardian.
2. Local Scouting units/chartered organizations determine their own membership and participation.
3. The safety of all participants is paramount, and any process should include a commitment to protecting the individual’s rights of privacy and confidentiality and due regard for the public health interest of others.

Use the framework below to address a situation in which youth or adult members have or are suspected of having a communicable disease.

• Develop a plan. Each case is unique, so the adult member or parent/guardian and youth, unit leadership, and healthcare provider(s) should be included in developing the plan whenever possible. Depending on each situation, a plan may be simple or more complex.

• Reach out to the council for assistance if help is needed. Team members may include:
  — A senior professional staff advisor (preferably the Scout executive).
  — A legal advisor (to ensure compliance with local or state laws about discrimination and disclosure).
  — The council health supervisor.
  — The council enterprise risk management chair or a committee member.
  — Local public health representatives.
  — The individual, parents/guardians if a youth is involved, and the individual’s personal healthcare provider(s).

• Elements of the plan may include:
  — Determination of whether the individual can safely take part in unit/camp activities or program.
  — Activities that are to be encouraged or restricted.
  — Training as needed, e.g., emergency training for camp staff or other unit members.
  — Determine if any reasonable modification(s) are needed for the unit or camp.
  — Review the plan as needed and modify when required.

Resources

• Mayo Clinic—Infectious Diseases:

• BSA Safety Moment—Communicable Disease Prevention: