



Coronavirus Update

Hello, Girl Scouts of Western Washington Membership—

The safety and welfare of our girls is our top priority. We are hearing from our community, and many families and volunteers are concerned about the spread of coronavirus in our state.

Girl Scouts of Western Washington is monitoring the situation closely. Public health authorities' current guidance does not include closures or cancellations of functions such as the program events that are scheduled across our council in the next 30 days. As always, decisions regarding participation in Girl Scout activities, including the Cookie Program, are up to the discretion of parents and guardians. While we are operating as usual, we are also working on contingency plans for programming and other events to be prepared for changing circumstances. We are actively following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Washington State Department of Health, as well as King County Public Health, so we can respond quickly to any shifts in their recommendations.

We encourage families and troop leaders to work together to make decisions about specific health and safety concerns for their girls, particularly during the Cookie Program. As with the regular flu, if your Girl Scout or their family members experience fever, they should stay home from their planned activities, including

Cookie Sale activities. The same simple steps that prevent the spread of ordinary flu viruses work against coronavirus and other illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cough into a tissue or your elbow (not your hand). Then throw tissue away and wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, with temperature above 100.0 F (38.7 C) or do not feel well, appear weak or ill.
- Consult your health care provider if you have special health conditions that put you at increased risk.

We recommend that girls, volunteers and families regularly visit the CDC website for updated information and follow preventative measures when out in public. Here are links to CDC sites that may be helpful for additional information:

- [On the coronavirus](#)
- [What to do if you think you may be sick](#)

We ask everyone to be mindful that although coronavirus started in China, having Chinese ancestry—or any other Asian ancestry—does not place a person at higher risk for this illness. We can help keep our girls safe by sharing accurate information with our fellow community members.

We've heard from so many girls how much they love and learn from the Cookie Program, and how they've been inspired to plan and dream big. We know that, even in challenging times, girls, families, volunteers and council will all be working — together — to give our Cookie Bosses the support they need to stay safe and reach their goals.

All my best,
Megan Ferland, CEO

