



# Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy

Approved and updated by the authority of the Scouts  
Australia National Executive Committee  
Date: [Updated November 2020](#)



## 1. POLICY STATEMENT - VACCINATIONS

The Scout Association of Australia has a duty of care to all its members to provide a safe environment that protects them from harm. All Adults are accountable to deliver that Duty of Care on behalf of the Association, at all times. The Association is committed to providing a safe environment for all members participating in its programs.

**General.** Scouts Australia and its State and Territory Branches aim to promote a general policy of proactive advocacy, promoting the benefits of vaccination, for all members of the Scouting Movement. Members who are not vaccinated are at increased risk, particularly from highly contagious diseases such as measles or whooping cough and from endemic risks such as tetanus.

While it is not the policy of Scouts to exclude unvaccinated members, it is important we are all aware of the risks.

**The Risk.** In day to day scouting an unvaccinated member presents risk to themselves and to others. They are at increased risk of contracting infectious disease and they may spread it to others. In the normal course of events a small percentage of vaccinated people will not be protected from the disease for which they were vaccinated against. Some other members may be vulnerable, as they may not be able to receive vaccinations due to medical conditions or be immune compromised.

For this reason should an outbreak of infectious disease occur people who are unvaccinated will generally be excluded from contact with others by Public Health Officials, for the duration of the outbreak. Scouts Australia follows the advice of all such Officials.

Should such an outbreak occur at a camp or Jamboree this may result in the return home of unvaccinated Scouts. This may incur additional cost to the parent/carer.

Scouts are also at risk of infection from injury, such as tetanus and wound infection.

Parental/Carer consent for medical attention is included in all forms for activities and includes treatment for injuries and infections. Scouts Australia strongly encourages all members to be up to date with all vaccinations and to seek advice on the need for additional vaccinations before any overseas travel.

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Amendment through Chair National Executive Committee only

This document has been prepared by Scouts Australia specifically for the operation of the Scout Association. The contents of this document are not held to be applicable to, or appropriate for, any other organisation or purpose.