



# Scouts Australia Vaccination Policy

Approved and updated by the authority of the  
Scouts Australia National Executive Committee  
Date: [Updated October 2021](#)

## Policy Statement

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

**Policy:** The policy of Scouts Australia is for individuals to follow the health guidance provided by governments (Federal/State and or Territory), including any Public Health Orders, and to seek medical advice as to their own particular circumstance to make an informed decision in relation to vaccination.

*It is not the policy of Scouts Australia to exclude unvaccinated members from membership.*

**General.** Scouts Australia and its State and Territory Branches aim to promote a general position of supporting government / medical authority led advocacy for vaccination, for members of Scouting in Australia and we see it as a public health benefit. Members who are not vaccinated may be at increased risk, particularly from highly contagious diseases

However, there are risks to be considered where some members are unvaccinated.

**The Risk.** In day to day scouting an unvaccinated member may present a risk to themselves and to others. They may be at an increased risk of contracting infectious disease with the potential to 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 an infectious disease occur, people who are unvaccinated may be excluded from contact with others by Public Health Officials, for the duration of the outbreak. Scouts Australia will always follow any specific Public Health Orders and adapt its program in accordance with that advice. Therefore, Scouts Australia will not allow exemptions to Public Health Orders or legislation.

Should such an outbreak occur at a camp or major event this may result in the return home of unvaccinated Scouts. This may incur additional cost for the Participant/Parent(s)/Guardian(s). Alternatively, it may see a member placed into isolation until the outbreak has passed. In some rare cases the special/complex medical conditions of a member may require a certain level of broader vaccination in others to be necessary. It is here that consideration needs to be given to prioritising the care of the majority of members who wish to safely practice Scouting. In these circumstances advice of the relevant Branch authorities must be sought before any requirement is advised.

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

Participant/Parent(s)/Guardian(s) 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 they may be able to medically receive and to seek advice on the need for additional protection before any overseas travel.