

## Covid-19 Yellow – Residential – Expeditions Risk Assessment

<b>Name of Section or Activity</b>	South East Explorer Expeditions (SEEE) Programme	<b>Date of risk assessment</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 Revised 3 Aug 2021	<b>Name of who undertook this risk assessment</b>	David Newton DESC Craigmmond District Steve Hankin – ESL Longcraig & Canoe Expedition Lead	<b>COVID-19 readiness level transition</b>	Yellow
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Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.</i>	<i>Explorers, Leaders, Visitors</i>	<i>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.</i>	

### SUMMARY:

- SEEE is the shorthand for a team of adult volunteers who collaboratively deliver expedition-related activities to promote Top Awards within the Explorer Scout section for Units within South East Region (where members of the Unit wish to complete a particular expedition/activity and the Unit/District is able to assist with the running of the activity)
- Scouts Scotland has released [Camping and Residential Experiences Guidance](#) to allow residential nights away activities to resume from May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 – this document is a risk assessment to cover the residential aspects of DofE expeditions run by SEEE, and these should be included as appropriate in the Risk Assessment for the overall activity submitted by the Leader In Charge to support the NA notification.
- The term “group” is used with different meaning in different contexts. For clarity, this risk assessment uses the following:
  - Activity group – this corresponds to the use of the term “group” in the Scouts Scotland guidance and includes the participants in the activity and the adult leaders supervising and assessing those participants as they undertake their expeditions.
  - Expedition Group – all DofE expeditions are based on groups of between 4 and 7 participants (8 allowed for tandem modes of travel, e.g. canoeing), operating as a separate, self-sufficient party with remote supervision by the adult leaders.
  - Participants will typically comprise Explorer Scouts (Youth Members) and may also include Network members.
- In considering risks arising from Covid, it is important to note that, given remote supervision, each expedition group will do their journeying and camping separate from any other group or leaders, and planned contact between adult supervisors and assessors and expedition groups is through short outdoor check-in meetings en-route where adults would normally maintain greater than 2m separation.

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Safeguarding	Leaders/ Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with standard requirements for any residential activity, all adult Leaders who are present during the residential periods must have safety and safeguarding training and PVG shown as current and up to date on Compass.</li> </ul>	
Safeguarding	Expedition with both Explorer Scout and Network participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expedition groups may comprise Explorer Scouts, Network members, or a combination of both.</li> <li>Explorer Scouts will camp in their groups under passports issued by the NaN holder, with the leaders camping separately at sufficient distance to meet DoFE remote supervision requirements, and to allow effective response should the Explorer Scouts request assistance.</li> <li>Network members taking part jointly with Explorer Scouts in the expedition must leave the Explorers' site for the residential part of the expedition (e.g. end of evening meal through to preparation of breakfast) and camp with the leaders to meet safeguarding requirements.</li> <li>They will camp within sight of the leaders and be positioned to maximise separation from the Explorer site within the constraints of the specific location.</li> <li>Network participants will be briefed that they must not under any circumstance visit the Explorer site during the residential/overnight period, and any occurrence of this may be reported as a Safeguarding issue and as a result they may be required to leave the expedition immediately.</li> <li>Network members who wish to camp separately from leaders must select a location that is clearly distant from (1km+), and with separating boundaries to the Explorer site, include plans for travel to/from this in their route and obtain prior approval from the Leader in charge.</li> </ul>	
Reduce risk of spread of infection  Group Sizes	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity groups will not exceed 30 in total.</li> <li>The number of adults in an activity group will not exceed 15.</li> <li>Sessions and activities will be planned in line with latest guidelines on group size for residential activities – and the activity group will not exceed 30 in total.</li> <li>Where we have more than one Activity Group out at the same time, we will not mix groups or Leaders and maintain at least 25m distance between them.</li> </ul>	
Risk of infection - Multiple Groups	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the numbers taking part in total exceed the allowed size of a group, the activity will be organised as multiple groups, each of which is totally self-sufficient, and which remain 25 metres apart at all times with no interaction.</li> <li>Where there are multiple Activity Groups under the one expedition then each group will have a deputy leader in charge who holds an appropriate permit to act as the supervisor for that group and be responsible to the overall Leader in Charge, who can also be responsible for their own Activity group too</li> <li>Adult leaders from one activity group may if an unplanned issue arises assist another activity group to ensure the safety of participants.</li> <li>At Covid Protection Level 0 in the home local authority, multi-occupancy is permitted in tents/rooms of up to 8 young people from 4 households. Should the Level change to 1, multi-</li> </ul>	

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		occupancy in tents/rooms of up to 6 young people from 3 households is permitted. Adult leaders from separate households will be in single person tents/rooms. Household groups with mixed Network and Explorer are not permitted.	
Risk of infection – toilet and washing	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expedition groups will be undertaking lightweight camping                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ participants will be briefed not to wash together (to share for example a basin), or share toiletries.</li> <li>○ For toileting, participants will be briefed to cleanse the handle for a toilet trowel before/after use – which would be part of normal “good hygiene” practice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Participants will carry personal bottles of hand gel.</li> <li>● Leaders may be based at a local campsite with communal facilities – only one leader will use these facilities at a time.</li> </ul>	
Risk of infection – indoors	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Apart from where using a toilet on a designated camping area, participants are not planned to be indoors at any point – but will have face masks should these be required.</li> </ul>	
Risk of infection – during expedition	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Normal social distancing rules will be observed.</li> <li>● Expedition groups must remain separate from each other en-route and at campsites to meet DofE requirements.</li> <li>● Expedition Group departure times and campsite locations will be planned to keep groups separate.</li> <li>● Activity group members may work together on expedition tasks e.g. putting up tents, shared use of stove), but must do so with care to maximising the distance between them, and use hand sanitiser after touching any equipment shared with another.</li> <li>● Activity group members do not need to wear facemasks while outdoors and cooking but should limit touching, wash hands, and use gel.</li> <li>● Group equipment (e.g. canoes, paddles, barrels, stoves, tents) is issued to a designated subgroup (usually 2) for use throughout the expedition, minimising the need to share. Hand sanitiser should be used after touching any equipment shared with others.</li> <li>● Activity group members should use separate plates, mugs, and cutlery.</li> <li>● CAUTION – all participants should be warned to not use alcohol-based gel near to a naked flame as it is flammable.</li> </ul>	
Risk of infection – venues	Participants, Leaders Members of public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All members of the activity group will be lightweight camping with no use of a venue which could result in being less than 25m from non-activity group members, or with indoor accommodation, kitchens, toilets, showers etc with risk of infection from shared usage.</li> </ul>	

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Risk of infection - travel	Participants Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity group members (or their parents/guardians) are responsible for making appropriate travel arrangements to/from the start/end points for the expedition in line with current requirements.</li> </ul>	
Infection – testing	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of lateral flow testing during expeditions is planned based on the following points:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lateral flow tests are not compulsory under the Scouts Scotland guidelines, but are strongly recommended.</li> <li>○ Undertaking lateral flow testing properly under expedition conditions in remote terrain is challenging due to the nature of the environment and the desire for minimal direct contact with leaders and others to maintain self-sufficiency.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Given this, SEEE expeditions will as a minimum:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request participants to take these tests immediately prior to travelling to the expedition area and parents to declare that the result is clear before they have contact with the activity group.</li> <li>○ Request participants to take a test immediately on arrival home and to communicate any negative outcome in line with Scottish Government requirements and to SEEE for information.</li> <li>○ Ensure the parental consent process makes clear that it is their responsibility to ensure that no one departs to join an expedition who is experiencing potential Covid symptoms, to ensure testing and any actions required by the results are completed, and to collect their child promptly should they develop symptoms or return a positive test result during the expedition.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
Impact of additional measures – weight carried	Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of extra equipment to ensure safety relating to Covid will not result in participants carrying loads that are greater than in normal circumstances, and leaders will make arrangements to transport additional equipment separately between campsites.</li> </ul>	
Change in Covid Tier of home or expedition location regions prior to Day 1	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Covid Risk level changes upwards to Level 3 at either the home or expedition location prior to the start of the expedition, it would no longer be permissible to proceed with travel between regions at a lower level and the one at Level 3.</li> <li>• Should this occur, an impact assessment will be undertaken to see if it is possible to continue using a different location or non-residential format, but the most likely outcome would be the cancellation of the expedition.</li> </ul>	
Change in Covid Tier of home or expedition location regions during expedition	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the Covid Risk level changes upwards to Level 3 at either the home or expedition location <b>during</b> the expedition, the expedition would continue if journeying stays within the same tier but any planned use of venues for project work would not take place.</li> <li>• If this is not possible, a dynamic risk assessment will be made by the Leaders and Assessor on whether it is viable to continue, use an alternative route or bring the expedition to an end. Travel home at the end of the expedition would be deemed essential.</li> </ul>	

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Safety/Safeguarding – camping in public locations	Participants, Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DofE expeditions will typically involve Greenfield locations where other members of the public may also be camping. It is highly likely that large numbers of the public will travel by car to accessible locations where wild camping is possible.</li> <li>• There are ongoing reports of large groups under the influence of alcohol, anti-social behaviour, lighting of fires which burn out of control, causing damage, leaving unburied faeces and litter debris/broken glass etc.</li> <li>• Leaders should be aware of this risk and the possible anxiety of Explorers sleeping alone in separate tents during planning and through dynamic assessments given other parties can arrive unexpectedly at a location.</li> <li>• Expedition group members should check the site for any hazards such as broken glass, faeces and pitch tents close to each other in a defined cluster to avoid others camping amongst the expedition group, and for all to be within earshot of each other while In tents</li> <li>• If at any point expedition groups and/or Leaders consider their safety is at risk, normal emergency procedures should be used as a priority, even if this means that normal expedition requirements are not met (e.g. relocation with Leader assistance to another site such as a public campsite, Leaders' camp in the vicinity of youth group etc).</li> </ul>	
Suspected case of Covid-19 either out with or within the setting - possibility of Covid19 spreading.	Participants, Leaders, Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have informed Parents/Carers that any young person or adult must not attend if they are unwell (based on current Government/NHS guidance for Covid19) and require testing at home before travelling to the expedition.</li> <li>• If a young person becomes unwell during an activity their parent/carer will be contacted to pick them up as soon as practical, and to follow current Government guidance (e.g. isolation periods).</li> <li>• If a Leader becomes unwell during an activity, they will go home as quickly as practical. The Leader in charge will assess the risk of this absence and decide on any changes to the plan, and contact parents/ carers to pick their Explorers up early at an appropriate collection point.</li> <li>• Test and protect: - we will record attendance of all Leaders and Explorers.</li> </ul>	
Suspected case of Covid-19 identified in remote location with no adjacent accessible pick-up location for parents to collect ill Explorer and/or remote supervision is being used.	Participants, Leaders, Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the activities, particularly expeditions will involve Explorers being some distance from a road where they can be collected by parents, and if under remote supervision, without Leaders to provide immediate direction or who can be guaranteed to be contactable by phone.</li> <li>• Participants are trained in procedures for these types of emergency situations and will follow this training.</li> <li>• During the Covid period we will provide a briefing before any remotely supervised expedition to remind them of what to do in this situation.</li> <li>• If the situation is considered life-threatening the group should follow standard procedures by contacting the emergency services first, followed by their supervisor.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the case of simple presentation of early Covid symptoms (not a life-threatening emergency)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Check on the route card to confirm the pre-identified escape route for the current location and the meeting point – the normal action would be to change route so the affected Explorer can be collected at the nearest accessible location (using the relevant escape route).</li> <li>○ Phone the Leader on the supplied number, and if no reply, the InTouch contact. If there is no reply send text messages to confirm the new route and destination. The Group should then follow the escape route to the meeting point which will be accessible to their parents.</li> <li>○ Make sure social distancing is continuing to be observed, and wear masks if desired Covid-19 restarting face to face Scouting risk assessment.</li> <li>○ If the Leaders have not been contactable or have not responded to text messages, continue trying to contact them periodically to notify them of the change in plan.</li> <li>○ The InTouch contact will phone the parents to arrange for them to come immediately to the pick-up point on the relevant escape route.</li> <li>○ As soon as the Leaders are contacted, an adult will go to the end of the escape route to meet with the group.</li> <li>○ If the Leaders have not received calls/texts, the team supervising the groups will soon notice the group is not where they should be, and actions will be taken to find the group (with knowledge of the escape routes).</li> <li>○ When the Explorer with potential Covid symptoms has been collected, a decision will be made as whether the group returns to the original route, takes an alternate route to the finish point, or other action.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	