

Gdańsk, 25 February 2020

To: Head of Contingents for the European Jamboree 2020

COVID-19: Jamboree Organisation Monitors the Situation

Health and safety of our participants and volunteers during the EJ2020 and in the course of preparation for this event is our highest priority.

Since the outbreak of the coronavirus disease COVID-19, the Jamboree Organisation has been closely monitoring the situation.

We are working in cooperation with the Polish National Sanitary Inspection to assess risks for the jamboree organisation. As a part of regular preparation for the jamboree, we have agreed on a general approach to prevent and control any potential diseases that could appear during such large-scale outdoor events. Schemes and procedures in place will be similar to the measures taken during previous big events hosted in Poland (2016 World Youth Day Kraków, UEFA EURO 2012).

For now, all activities, including JPT Meetings will proceed as planned, taking into account the advised precautions to prevent the spread of the disease.

Guidance for Contingents

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in December 2019.

As the Contingent Management Teams, you may be asked by leaders and parents on the precautions on COVID-19 outbreak in relation to the EJ2020.

Our advice is to address those questions in direct communication, based on current and credible sources like WHO, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control or national epidemiologic agencies.

We recommend you to follow general precautions during your contingent preparation for the EJ2020 to ensure any event running by your contingent is safe as well (preparatory workshops, selection weekends, fundraising activities, etc.).

The basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

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While the World Health Organization (WHO) is still learning about how COVID-19 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart disease, or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.

As per today, WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

Empathy Towards Affected People

Sadly, the current COVID-19 outbreak has provoked social stigma and discriminatory behaviours against people of certain ethnic backgrounds as well as anyone perceived to have been in contact with the virus. Such treatment can negatively affect those with the disease, as well as their caregivers, family, friends and communities. Moreover, people who don't have the disease but share other characteristics with this group may also suffer from stigma. We encourage all participants and volunteers of the European Jamboree 2020 to keep the Scouting spirit high and express solidarity with all the affected people.

The Jamboree Organisation will continue to monitor the situation and will serve the Contingent Management Teams of participating NSOs/MOs with the necessary assistance to deliver a safe and educational experience for Scouts and Guides at the European Jamboree 2020.

Karol Gzyl

Director, European Jamboree 2020

Online Resources

- Website of the World Health Organization:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Website of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control:
<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>
- Q&A on COVID-19:
<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>
- A guide to preventing and addressing social stigma:
https://www.epi-win.com/sites/epiwin/files/content/attachments/2020-02-24/COVID19%20Stigma%20Guide%2024022020_1.pdf

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