

## **WAGGGS COVID-19 UPDATE**

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to a standstill. Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting around the world stopped. WAGGGS decided to cancel all events, stop all international travel for staff and volunteers and to close the World Centres.

To support our Member Organisations worldwide to respond and adapt to this new challenge, WAGGGS formed a working group of highly experienced volunteer advisors to provide consultancy support. They acted as a sounding board for Member Organisations and were on hand to help navigate the challenges posed by COVID-19 – from adapting programme delivery, to grants or funding applications and more. We also harnessed technology to create virtual moments and platforms that kept the sisterhood connected at the time when it was needed the most.

Two years on from when the pandemic began, we are starting to see some light as the world slowly begins to learn how to live with COVID-19. The speed and approach that each country is taking when opening back up is varying greatly. Some countries are seeing very fast vaccination roll outs, governments relaxing their travel guidance and re-opening their borders, whilst others are facing limited availability and roll out of vaccines and tougher border restrictions.

In line with the changing COVID-19 situation WAGGGS continues to review and update our COVID-19 guidance. It is important that our approach reflects the changing situation and also acknowledges the large variation between COVID-19 situations in our different member countries.

We have updated our travel guidance and our staff and volunteers have cautiously started to travel again. We have also announced the re-opening of Pax Lodge, Sangam and Our Chalet in 2022 and some face-to-face events organised by WAGGGS are planned for 2022.

As we take these steps, the safety of staff, volunteers, Member Organisations and their members across the world remains our highest priority. WAGGGS is following the appropriate guidelines to ensure face-to-face activities are as safe as possible:

- All WAGGGS (global and regional) events, activities and operations will be fully risk assessed and delivered adhering to all national and local government laws and guidelines.
- Information will be sent to all event participants in advance of travel regarding what is covered by WAGGGS insurance (when applicable) and what individual responsibility there is for arranging personal cover in advance of travel.
- World Centres will adhere to all national and local government laws and guidelines and where it is not a government requirement staff/volunteers will be encouraged to get vaccinated. In the case that a staff member or volunteers is not fully vaccinated they will test regularly. Specific details of these requirements will be localised by each World Centres individually based on current government recommendations in-country.

We look forward to being able to connect with you all in person once again.