



March 3, 2020

Dear Girl Scout Families,

I am sure that you're aware of a new Coronavirus that has spread from its first-reported case two months ago in China to become an international public health emergency. There has been a lot of media coverage about the virus—also known as COVID-19—and along with it a swell of questions, anxiety, and fear.

I want you to know that Girl Scouts will always keep the safety and well-being of our members as a top priority, and prevention is key at this time. Here at our council, I have convened a COVID-19 Response Team, which is actively monitoring the concern and updates in our communities, as well as implementing steps to maintain safe environments for our members and staff.

We, along with you, are learning that the standard precautions and best practices of preventing the cold and flu apply to COVID-19, such as washing your hands with soap often or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. I encourage you to review resources provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) for more about prevention.

In addition, I invite you to check out [this article and NPR broadcast](#) that provides an easy-to-understand way to talk to your Girl Scout or any kids about Coronavirus, its symptoms, and what to do if they're worried. Another helpful resource was released by GSUSA today titled, "[How to Talk to Your Girl About Coronavirus](#)."

I remain hopeful and vigilant in this unsettling time. I encourage you and your families to follow the CDC's guidance; we are doing the same at all our offices and service centers. If we learn of any updates that may impact our members and programs, we will share them promptly.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa Edy-Kiene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Theresa Edy-Kiene
CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles