



# COVID-19 AND SANTA RUNS

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The NSW RFS recognises many brigades choose to conduct 'Santa Runs' in their local communities and these activities are especially important this year, given it's been a difficult time for so many people. When conducting these events, COVID-Safe Measures must be taken. This is for the safety of NSW RFS members, and members of the community.

### Principles

- › If you're feeling unwell, you are not to attend a NSW RFS activity or location. If you're unwell, stay home and get tested.
- › Maintain a high standard of hygiene – wash your hands regularly with soap or use sanitiser, and cover any coughs and sneezes.
- › Ensure cleaning is carried out at NSW RFS locations, including general, preventative and targeted cleaning.
- › Practice physical distancing. This means maintaining a 1.5 metre distance wherever possible, and following limits on group sizes such as one person per four square metres.

### Advice for Conducting Santa Runs and Other Christmas Events

- › All members are strongly encouraged to wear a disposable face mask.
- › Ensure disinfectant wipes, hand sanitiser and tissues are available for NSW RFS members.
- › Appliances and locations should be cleaned in accordance with the Fact Sheet NSW RFS Site and Appliance Cleaning.
- › Follow physical distancing requirements. For example, this means Santa should remain inside a vehicle, or 1.5 metres from others if on foot. Don't shake hands, hug or kiss as a greeting.
- › No-one is permitted to travel in the crew refuge area. A spotter should also be used to ensure it safe for a vehicle to move if people are around.
- › Members of the community are not permitted to travel in NSW RFS vehicles.
- › Only sweets or gifts that are pre-packaged and commercially prepared with appropriate labelling can be provided. Members handing out food or gifts are to wear disposable gloves and face mask, and regularly clean the container used to hand out food or gifts.
- › Appoint a COVID-19 Safety Officer to enforce physical distancing and cleaning standards.
- › Follow current [NSW Health](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx) guidelines on group sizes for all brigade events.
- › When holding a Brigade event, individually packaged food is recommended, and the use of shared utensils is to be avoided.
- › Brigades are to maintain a register of visitors or attendees at brigade Christmas Events.
- › Check [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus) for updates and resources, including information on crew sizes and the [NSW RFS COVID Response levels](https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus), NSW RFS signage, and public health advice issued by NSW Health.

**TIP:** If you're taking photos of Santa Run events, be sure that you're following and demonstrating COVID-Safe measures including physical distancing. Share your photos with [comms@rfs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:comms@rfs.nsw.gov.au)