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Members of Hampshire Scouts  
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*Dear Hampshire Scouts.*

In the last couple of weeks following the Government's announcement of new measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic, local communities across Hampshire have been enthusiastic in coming together to do what they can to help those who will be most affected.

Like everyone else my family are learning to be self-sufficient, working from home and communicating by phone and social media. We have been social distancing for about 20 days so are now beginning to get used to this way of life.

My work as HM Lord-Lieutenant, of course, continues by supporting, encouraging and helping various organisations across Hampshire. The key for all of us is to occupy this extra time we have and to even try out a new hobby. I have been greatly encouraged by stories I hear of Scout Groups and Sections who are maintaining contact with their fellow Scouts and having a go at some of the Great Indoors activities as issued by the UK Chief Commissioner, and many also undertaking their own online Section activities.

We are in challenging times for our movement, but it's heartening to see how Scouts are responding in such positive ways. Each one of us can make a difference for the better. It is going to be a tough few weeks and months but our determination and the kindness we show each other will get us through. Thank you for maintaining the values of Scouting.

I much look forward to joining Hampshire Scouts once we have beaten the coronavirus and are through this period of uncertainty.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to send you, your families and everyone in Hampshire Scouts my very best wishes at this difficult time for all of us.

*Yours sincerely*

Nigel Atkinson  
HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire  
President of Hampshire Scouts