



**STATE OF MONTANA
CORONAVIRUS
PHASE TWO REOPENING
FREQUENTLY ASKED
QUESTIONS**

State Emergency Operations Center
Joint Information Center (JIC)

Last updated: July 15, 2020 (updates highlighted)

THIS DOCUMENT REFERS TO PHASE 2 OF MONTANA’S REOPENING, BEGINNING JUNE 1. THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE IS WAITING TO SEE THE IMPACT OF PHASE 2 BEFORE CONSIDERING A DATE FOR PHASE 3.

Phase Two Reopening FAQs

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Information on Inquiries

- Link to Governor’s [Directive](#)
- State Business Inquiry Hotline: **1-800-755-6672**
- State General COVID-19 Hotline: **1-888-333-0461**
- Tourism Informational Hotline: **1-800-847-4868**
- Emergency Housing Assistance Program: COVID19HousingAssist@mt.gov
 - Phone: 406.841.2840, TDD: 406.841.2702, Toll Free: 800.761.6264
- Website, details and maps: [COVID19INFO@MT.GOV](#)
- Follow Montana Dept. of Disaster & Emergency Services on social media:
 - [Facebook: Montana DES](#)
 - [Instagram: Montanades406](#)
 - [Twitter: Montana DES](#)

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Definitions

Vulnerable Individuals/Populations: people over 65 years of age, people with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, or asthma, and people whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer or other conditions requiring such therapy. [April 22 Directive for Phase 1, page 4]

Places of Assembly: A building (excluding dwelling units) or outdoor space, or portion thereof, in which persons may gather that require individuals to be in close proximity to each other and lack the ability to easily adapt to required social distancing and sanitation practices before each individual use. [Phase 1 FAQs]

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Phases and Number of Cases

	Phase 1 April 26 - May 31	Phase 2 June 1 - Start of Phase 3 is currently undetermined
Vulnerable Individuals	Only leave home for essential purposes (e.g., food, medicine)	No change
Landlord/Tenant Guidance	Limit foreclosures, evictions, and disconnections from service	Protections continue only for vulnerable populations
Employers	Encourage telework; accommodate alternate work schedules; close common areas; minimize non-essential business travel; accommodations for vulnerable population/those with vulnerable household members	No change
Retail	Operational, reduced capacity	No change
Child care	Limit children in facility to 24, groups of 10 or fewer children	The cap of 24 no longer applies; increased capacity with physical distancing
Gatherings	Avoid gatherings of more than 10	Increase to 50-person limit
Restaurant/Bar/Brewery/ Distillery/Casino	50% capacity; no bar service or self-service buffets; bars close by 11:30; drink takeout allowed	Increase to 75% capacity. Bars and counters may offer seating and bars close by 12:30
Barbers, salons and personal-care businesses	50% capacity	Increase to 75% capacity
Gyms, Movie Theaters and Museums	50% capacity; no live performances or tactile museums	Increase capacity to 75%; tactile museums allowed to operate
Pools	Public Accommodation Pools operate at reduced capacity of 50%	All pools may operate at 75% capacity
Outdoor Recreation	Encouraged	No change
Youth Activities	Operational with strict physical distancing	Avoid gatherings of more than 50 people
Senior Living or Assisted Living Facilities	Visitors restricted. Strict protocols regarding hygiene and protection are followed, including daily symptom screening of staff and preventing ill workers from working. Exceptions for end of life/compassionate care	No change
Out of state travelers	Travel quarantine for non-work-related travelers	Travel quarantine no longer in effect
Face coverings	Encouraged	Required in counties in which there are four or more confirmed and active COVID-19 cases (as of July 15,2020)

NOTE: The Governor's directives can be supplemented by more restrictive local measures put in to place by county authorities. To ensure you are getting the best information regarding the local situation, please reach out to the county health department, tribal governments or local law enforcement regarding how the order is taking effect in that community.

This guide was created to provide quick highlights on the changes between Reopening Phase 1 and Phase 2. For more in-depth information, please see our FAQs (<https://covid19.mt.gov/Frequently-Asked-Questions>). If your questions are not answered in the FAQs, contact COVID19info@mt.gov or call 888-333-0461.

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Why do the state and county COVID-19 case numbers not always match up?

Local public health authorities release individuals from the “active” category and share that information with state health officials. Notification of state health officials may not occur immediately and local and state maps may be updated on different schedules. For example, some jurisdictions may update their data several times a day, others only once. The state map is updated each morning and as a result slight differences in data is reflected at any given time. This is an ongoing process and every reasonable effort is made to ensure consistency.

Is Montana going to require the public to wear masks to prevent more cases?

At this time, wearing a mask is strongly recommended in public settings. The CDC also recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. However, county authorities can impose more restrictive local measures than are outlined in the Governor's directives. If you have questions, concerns or comments about local masking measures, please contact your local county/city commission.

With the phased reopening, do officials worry about upticks in COVID-19 cases?

Yes. With widespread testing and testing of close-contact cases (contact tracing), we expect to see new cases. As the Governor stated in this June 11 press conference, these cases serve as a reminder that we cannot get complacent and that if unchecked, this virus can spread quickly and quietly. In Montana, local and tribal public health are working carefully to perform contact tracing to get exposed individuals into quarantine and eliminate chains of transmission to keep the virus under control.

Is it possible that instead of moving to Phase 3, we may move back to Phase 1 if Montana sees more cases?

The phased re-opening approach is data-dependent. The Governor's Office is waiting to see the impact of Phase 2 before considering next steps forward.

When will Phase 3 start?

The phased re-opening approach is data-dependent, meaning that the data from the previous phase dictates when the next phase will be possible. The Governor's Office is waiting to see the impact of Phase 2 before considering a date for Phase 3.

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Won't allowing out-of-staters into Montana lead to an increase in COVID-19 cases?

Montana is slowly opening to visitors and the health and safety of our citizens and visitors is top priority. In the state, we are currently focusing on providing COVID-19 testing (Community Screenshot Testing) to tourism communities. To protect the health and safety of Montanans and travelers to our state, some services and destinations may be limited. The Montana National Guard may still conduct temperature checks, assess individuals for COVID-19 symptoms, and inquire about exposure history of travelers arriving in Montana from another state or country through air or rail travel.

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Masks/Face Coverings

WHO IS REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK

Are masks mandated in all Montana counties?

The provisions of this Directive apply only to counties in which there are four or more confirmed and active COVID-19 cases, and only during the time in which there are four or more active cases. However, Montanans in counties with three or fewer active cases are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.

The Mask FAQ [on our website](#) lists the Montana counties that currently have a mask mandate in effect.

Alternatively, we will also post the counties with the mask mandate on the Montana Department of Emergency Services [Facebook page](#) and other social media accounts.

You can see how many active cases your community has on the [Montana COVID-19 map](#).

Who is not required to wear a mask?

- Children under the age of five.
- All children between the ages of two and four, however, are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering in accordance with the provisions of this Directive.
- Children under the age of two should not wear a face covering;
- persons consuming food or drinks in an establishment that offers food or drinks for sale;
- persons engaged in an activity that makes wearing a face covering impractical or unsafe, such as strenuous physical exercise or swimming; or persons seeking to communicate with someone who is hearing impaired;
- persons giving a speech or engaging in an artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical performance for an audience, provided the audience is separated by at least six feet of distance;
- persons temporarily removing their face covering for identification purposes;
- persons required to remove face coverings for the purpose of receiving medical evaluation, diagnosis, or treatment; or
- persons who have a medical condition precluding the safe wearing of a face covering.

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OBTAINING A MASK

What requirements must a mask meet?

"Face covering" means a fabric, paper, or disposable face covering that covers the nose and mouth and which does not have an exhalation valve. The term "face covering" includes face shields.

Who is responsible for providing masks for the public to wear?

Businesses are responsible for providing face coverings for their employees and volunteers. A member of the public when entering a business will need to provide their own face covering.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MASKS IN INDOOR SPACES

What indoor locations are face masks required to be worn?

"Indoor space open to the public" means any indoor space, whether publicly or privately owned, where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not. In addition, "indoor spaces open to the public" include, but are not limited to lobbies, common areas, elevators, bathrooms, meeting rooms, or other spaces where people gather. The term includes all modes of public or commercial transportation. The term does not include private residences not open to the public.

Employees, volunteers, and contractors in public-facing work spaces are required to wear face coverings.

Who is responsible for making sure people wear masks in indoor public places?

All businesses, government offices, or other persons responsible for indoor spaces open to the public shall require and take reasonable measures to ensure that all employees, contractors, volunteers, customers, or other members of the public wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times while entering or remaining in any indoor spaces open to the public.

Is signage required to tell the public entering indoor public places that masking is required?

All points of entry open to the public shall have a clearly visible sign posted stating: "Mask or face covering use required for ages five and older."

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MASKS REQUIRED IN OUTDOOR SPACES

Are face coverings required outdoors?

For any organized outdoor activity where social distancing is not possible or is not observed, sponsors shall require and take reasonable measures to ensure that all persons attending an organized outdoor activity wear a face covering that covers their mouth and nose at all times.

What constitutes an organized outdoor activity?

"Organized outdoor activity" means any gathering of 50 or more people for an activity or event organized or sponsored by a business or person, or that takes place on the property of a business or person. This includes, but is not limited to, outdoor theatrical or music performances, fairs, markets, festivals, parades, carnivals, rodeos, sporting or athletic events, beer gardens, weddings and receptions, or parties.

This section applies only where the nature of the organized outdoor activity makes it impracticable for all attendees to maintain at least six feet of physical distance from each other, or any organized outdoor activity where attendees are not observing at least six feet of physical distance from others.

Are masks required at large gatherings that aren't "organized outdoor activities"?

At all outdoor gatherings of 50 or more people, whether or not it constitutes an organized outdoor activities, all individuals except those covered by section 4 of this Directive are required to wear face coverings while in attendance where it is impracticable to maintain six feet of physical distance at all times, or whether attendees are not observing at least six feet of physical distance from others.

What is an outdoor event "sponsor"?

"Sponsor" means any business or person who organizes or sponsors an organized outdoor activity, or who allows the activity to take place on their property.

ENFORCEMENT

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What do I do if someone refuses to wear a mask who comes into a public space I am responsible for?

Businesses, other persons responsible for indoor spaces open to the public, and sponsors of organized outdoor activities are entitled to reasonably rely in good faith on the representations of employees, volunteers, contractors, customers, visitors, or members of the public regarding the applicability of the exceptions in section 4 of the Governor's Directive. Reasonable, good faith reliance on such representations is an affirmative and complete defense to any enforcement proceedings brought pursuant to this Directive.

Does the governor have the legal right to mandate masks?

The legislature has delegated to the Governor authority to respond to emergencies. During a declared state of emergency, the Governor may "control ingress and egress to and from an incident or emergency or disaster area, the movement of persons within the area, and the occupancy of premises within the area." Section 10-3-104(2)(c), MCA.

In responding to the emergency, the Governor "shall use the services and facilities of the existing officers and agencies of the state, and all officers and agencies shall cooperate with and extend their services and facilities to the governor as the governor may request in the carrying out of the purposes of" the emergency response statutes. Section 10-3-305(2).

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Employment and COVID Relief Grants

Where can I find information about the relief grants?

For information regarding the various grant programs, including qualifications and uses, visit <https://covidrelief.mt.gov>.

How do I apply for the relief grants?

To apply for any of the relief grants, visit <https://covidrelief.mt.gov>, and click the "Click Here to Apply" button toward the middle of the page.

I applied for a relief grant, but haven't heard anything back. What should I do?

There has been an overwhelming response to the grant programs and staff are working around the clock trying to review and evaluate those applications. If you are concerned, you can send an email inquiry to reliefapps.covid@mt.gov, and someone will get in touch with you.

I am in the high-risk / vulnerable category. Do I have to return to work?

Vulnerable individuals should continue to adhere to the stay-at-home guidance.

Where can I get more information?

Phase 2 Directive, page 4.

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Housing

Are measures still in place to limit foreclosures, evictions, and disconnections from service?

No, unless you are a member of a vulnerable population, who has suffered a significant financial hardship as a result of the outbreak AND remain sheltered at home. In this case, the protections of the March 30 and April 13 Directives continue and will expire 30 days after the individual ceases to shelter at home or at the end of the emergency, whichever is sooner.

How do I prove I am a member of a vulnerable population to prevent foreclosure, eviction or disconnection?

An individual who seeks the protection of these provisions to prevent a foreclosure, eviction, or disconnection after June 1 must make a basic showing to their bank, landlord, or utility that they:

- (1) are sheltering in place under this order, and
- (2) are a member of a vulnerable population, and
- (3) have been financially impacted as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

What rules do I have to follow to evict my tenant if they are a member of a vulnerable population?

Before moving forward with an eviction, foreclosure, or disconnection against an individual who is a member of a vulnerable population, the entity initiating the eviction, foreclosure, or disconnection must provide adequate notice of the opportunity to seek the protection of this Directive by making the showing described above.

I can't pay my rent/mortgage. Is there any help for this?

The rent and mortgage assistance program established in the April 13 Directive remains in effect for the duration of the emergency. The program will provide rent, security deposit, mortgage payment, and/ or hazard insurance assistance as-needed for Montanans who have lost a job or substantial income loss because of COVID-19.

How can I apply for rental assistance?

Interested individuals may apply at <https://commerce.mt.gov/Coronavirus-Relief>.

Where can I get more information?

Phase 2 Directive, page 3.

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Restaurant/Bar/Brewery/Distillery/Casino Guidance

Why is there an earlier closing time than 2 a.m. for bars?

The 12:30 a.m. closing time is to protect public health and lessen the spread of the virus. The recommendation for an earlier closing time before 2 a.m. was suggested by both health officials and industry representatives when the Montana reopening plan was developed in late April. In Phase 2, the closing time was extended from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Is bar seating open during phase 2?

Yes, but there is no bar seating within 6 feet of a well or taps, an area where drinks are passed to servers, ice machines, or other areas used to prepare or serve food or beverages. Patrons should maintain 6 feet of social distancing, shared/community items should be eliminated and commonly touched surfaces should be frequently cleaned/disinfected.

Is restaurant counter seating "bar seating"?

Yes, these guidelines apply to for bar seating in restaurants, breweries, distilleries, and bars

Are there specific guidelines for poker rooms?

Beginning Friday June 5, 2020 poker rooms are allowed in Phase 2 with the same goals of the bar seating with the following specifications:

- 1) Poker rooms must require everyone to sanitize their hands upon entering or reentering the card room
- 2) Limit the number of available seats to six players in order to create some spacing between them
- 3) Players will verbalize all bets and the dealer will physically handle all chip transactions
- 4) All poker staff will wear masks, poker staff will sanitize and or wash hands in between each cash transaction
- 5) Poker staff will sanitize tables, chairs, chips and cards with disinfectant products every day and they will use steam for the fabric on the chairs and the vinyl covering on the tables

What is the required closure time for bar seating?

The required time of closure for bar seating in restaurants, breweries, distilleries, and bars during Phase 2 is extended from 11:30PM to 12:30AM.

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What are the social distancing guidelines for bar seating?

Bars stools should be spaced 6 feet apart. If a group of 6 or less comes in and requests to be seated together, a staff member can group seat together and then re-space to 6ft once the group leaves.

Is standing at the bar allowed?

All patrons should have a place to sit; no standing and mingling is allowed at the bar or elsewhere. Individuals who are actively participating in a bar game and able to socially distance from tables of 10 or less people may stand as part of participation in the game. Equipment for bar games should be kept behind the bar and wiped down with an [EPA approved](#) disinfectant between uses. Equipment that cannot be kept behind the bar should be cleaned by staff between participants.

What if 6 feet cannot be maintained between patrons and servers/staff using well areas or taps?

A physical barrier or closing wells may be used to protect servers/staff but the barrier must be at least 36 inches high and offer enough protection to prevent employee exposure to droplets from anyone seated within 6 feet of either side of the serving area.

Wells taken out of use should be marked with a sign to remind staff.

Can patrons order "to-go" at a bar/order alcohol at concession stands?

There may be a designated area at the bar, away from other customers, wells, taps, prep-stations where patrons may place and receive orders. Six feet of social distancing should be maintained by all patrons of separate parties and only one customer may use this space at a time. Patrons may grab their drink or order and then return to their seats. (See above if 6ft cannot be maintained.)

Can bars offer "shake-a-day"?

No shake-a-day unless dice and cup can be disinfected in-between patrons.

What are the phase 2 sanitary guidelines for bar areas?

Bar stools and counter space just be disinfected between patrons; no reusing drink coasters unless they can be disinfected between patrons and no refilling glasses, new glass is needed for each order; no community items included peanuts or other foods unless they can be served in individual containers.

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Is Karaoke allowed?

Karaoke is not prohibited by the directive. Karaoke is offered in many forms depending on the establishment. Individual establishments should work with their local health departments to ensure social distancing can be maintained, and that equipment can be cleaned properly between patrons.

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Travel and Social Events

If I travel outside of Montana for any reason, do I need to quarantine upon return to Montana? (residents)

No. As of June 1, the provisions of the March 30 Directive requiring quarantine for nonwork-related arrivals in Montana is no longer in effect (see Phase 2 Directive, page 5).

If I want to vacation or otherwise travel into Montana, am I subject to a quarantine period or other restrictions? (non-residents)

No. As of June 1, the provisions of the March 30 Directive requiring quarantine for nonwork-related arrivals in Montana is no longer in effect (see Phase 2 Directive, page 5).

Can visitor centers reopen?

Visitor centers can open in Phase 2, with reduced capacity of 75%, strict adherence to physical distancing guidance and following CDC sanitation protocols

I am getting married and have more than 50 people invited to my wedding. Do I need to reduce the number/cancel it?

As of June 1, groups greater than 50 are not advised. However, if you are planning an event with more than 50 people you should consult with your local public health office on a plan to implement adequate social distancing. Event cutoff threshold is at the discretion of community leadership based on current circumstances in that community (see Phase 2 Directive, page 4)

Do events that take place using bar/restaurant outdoor facilities such as patios, volleyball courts, etc. but not within the bar/restaurant count against the capacity limit of the venues?

Yes. Patrons using outdoor facilities will count against the 75% capacity limits of the venue during Phase 2. Venues that wish to expand their outdoor capacity for special events such as tournaments, celebrations and other functions should consult with their local health office to work out a plan for how to maintain social distancing and enhanced cleaning procedures.

Are rodeos and fairs cancelled?

At this time, rodeos and fairs must follow the same guidance as all large gatherings. However, local authorities may impose more restrictive measures than the directive.

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What is the guidance for dance floors?

Events over 50 people should consult with their local health department to make a plan to promote social distancing. In all group settings, individuals should follow the best practices available to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as wearing a mask, washing your hands frequently or using hand sanitizer, and staying six feet apart when possible. This answer does not apply to bars where all patrons should have a place to sit and no standing and mingling is allowed at the bar or elsewhere.

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Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Senior Centers

Are visitations allowed in senior and assisted living facilities?

Yes. Montanans requiring care in senior and assisted living facilities have access to limited visitation, subject to stringent safety and health measures. As stated in the Governor's Directive from July 13:

Nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities may allow visitors provided they comply with the following conditions and first give notice of the following safeguards to residents and family members:

- Visitation should be conducted in accordance with the strict screening, physical distancing, sanitation, hygiene, and other infection control protocols set forth in the [CMS](#) and [CDC guidance](#) applicable to nursing homes.
- Before permitting visitation, facilities should review the applicable [CDC](#) and [CMS guidance](#) and ensure that they are able to follow the recommendations contained therein.

For more information, the CMS Toolkit on State Actions to Mitigate COVID-19 Prevalence in Nursing Homes can be found [here](#).

Assisted living facilities may allow visitors provided they comply with the following conditions and first give notice of the following safeguards to residents and family members:

- Visitation must be conducted in accordance with the strict screening, physical distancing, sanitation, hygiene, and other infection control protocols set forth in the Department's July 13, 2020 Notice of Adoption of Temporary Emergency Rules
- Before resuming visitation, all facilities must have conducted—at a minimum—a single baseline COVID-19 test of all residents and staff (including volunteers and vendors who are in the facility on a weekly basis), and the facilities must have implemented an internal plan for weekly re-testing of all staff.

Can senior centers open during Phase 2?

The Phase Two directive recommends vulnerable individuals such as senior citizens continue to adhere to the stay-at-home guidance. If a local senior center chooses to open in Phase Two, they should consult with their local public health officials to develop a plan that ensures proper social distancing and sanitation guidelines. An Incident response plan for cleaning and sanitizing regarding a positive COVID-19 case should be created prior to opening.

Should patrons/workers be screened before coming into the senior center?

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Patrons' and workers' forehead temperatures should be taken with infrared thermometers before entering the facility and/or screen for symptoms (more than 100°F suggests possible fever). Patrons with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using the facility

Can food be served at senior centers during Phase 2?

Yes, however:

- Designate specific dining times for patrons with underlying health conditions only, where fewer seats are available and more than 6 feet can be maintained
- A specific cleaning plan should be implemented with employees trained in proper sanitation practices. Please consider using the guidance document: [FACILITY PLAN FOR CLEANING, SANITIZING & DISINFECTING](#). This document can be found at <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/fcss>.
- Centers must provide for 6 feet of physical distancing between groups and tables by:
 - Only allow 6 seats per table
 - All surfaces must be cleaned between patrons, including tables and chairs
 - Drinks and food must be served to patrons at a table; no self-service buffets
 - Table items including condiments, menus, napkins, and décor should be removed from tables unless they can be adequately cleaned between patrons
 - Single use utensils are recommended when possible
 - Reusable items must be cleaned before and after each use
 - Signage should be posted with the following or substantially similar wording: “Members with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using this facility” and “maintain 6 feet distance between people”
- Increasing table spacing, removing tables, or marking tables as closed, or
- Providing a physical barrier between tables

What guidelines do patrons at senior centers need to follow?

- Testing centers are now available for voluntary testing, we recommend all employees and patrons get tested when possible
- Maintain 6 feet distance between other patrons and workers
- Wear face mask when possible
- Sanitation and hygiene procedures
- COVID-19 symptom awareness

What guidelines do workers at senior centers need to follow?

Testing centers are now available for voluntary testing, we recommend all employees and patrons get tested when possible. Furthermore, workers should be trained to:

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- Minimize contact time with patrons when possible
- Wear face mask when possible
- Wash hands when contaminated or suspect of contamination
 - Follow normal use and disposal procedures for single-use gloves
 - Stay home if ill
- Report illness symptoms to supervisor

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Organized Youth Activities

What are the social distancing requirements at camps?

It is recommended that Camps keep individuals in groups of 10. The same 10 people should be with each other every day. Children within the group of 10 do not need to maintain social distance from each other. They can have closer contact for activities such as sports. However, groups of 10 should remain socially distanced from other groups of 10.

Is there a capacity cap for camps?

Camps may exceed a max of 50 people so long as they coordinate with their local health jurisdiction to ensure appropriate social distancing. That number includes campers and the employees that have contact with those campers, such as counselors. It does not include employees that do not interact with campers, such as maintenance.

Do campers/employees need to wear face coverings at all times?

Although they are strongly recommended, camps may choose not to require face coverings. It may not be reasonable to expect small children to keep them in place, or for any children to wear them during rigorous physical activity.

What do I need to do before opening a camp?

Camps need to contact their County Health Department to develop a plan for reporting, testing (if someone develops symptoms), and contact tracing. Each camp must develop a cleaning and sanitizing protocol

What information should we provide to campers/employees about COVID-19 prior to coming to camp?

- *Campers and employees should be reminded not to attend if:*
- *Campers and employees should receive a list of COVID-19 symptoms along with instructions to report any symptoms as soon as they appear. (Instructions should include information on who they need to report to at the camp.)*
 - they have tested positive for COVID
 - if they are showing any symptoms
 - if they have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive
 - have been told to quarantine for any reason
 - or are awaiting test results.

What protocols need to be followed by campers/employees once they arrive at camp?

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- *Both employees and campers should complete a health questionnaire and have a temperature check.*
 - Anyone with a temp greater than 100.0 must be sent home.
 - Overnight Camps do not have to fill out a questionnaire each day. However, any campers that attend functions outside of camp (such as going to a public swimming pool) should complete a new questionnaire and temperature check.
 - Day Camps should fill out a new health questionnaire and perform a temperature check at the beginning of camp each day.

What happens if a camper/staffer contracts COVID-19?

Anyone who in contact with that camper/staff would need to be quarantined immediately pending the results of the test. Camps should prepare for both short-term or extended closures in the case of a positive COVID case.

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Pools

Can public swimming pools open?

Yes, all public swimming pools (pools, spas, hot springs, water parks, competition pools, etc.) can open but must follow the standards for healthy behaviors and a healthy environment (see information on these practices under the question "what are the healthy behaviors and healthy environment guidelines pools must follow?")

Do I need an employee to monitor and control the occupancy of my public swimming pool?

Yes. COVID-19 guidance requires the facility to monitor the use of the pool to maintain social distancing and keep the bather load at 75% or less. The facility should develop a plan that works best for their business operations. Examples of plans that facilities have implemented include:

- 1) Having front desk personnel in a position to easily see and control access to the pool
- 2) Monitoring facilities remotely (for facilities with camera systems)
- 3) Locking the pool room door with a sign indicating that all pool users must check in at the front desk to access the pool.

There are other options that may meet the intent of the guideline and specific questions about what may work for your facility can be directed to your local health jurisdiction.

I'm unsure if my facility is covered in the pool guidance--what guidance should I follow?

The guidance for pools is in the updated [Appendix B](#) of the Governor's directive. The guidance applied to all facilities licensed as a pool or spa in the state.

Do people have to social distance in pools/are there occupancy guidelines?

Yes, occupancy cannot exceed 75 percent capacity of normal bather load. Patrons must observe social distancing requirements (6 foot spacing between unassociated patrons (i.e. not family members) and 6 foot spacing between groups of no more than 50).

The facility must reduce their total occupancy if they are unable to observe these social distancing requirements.

Can youth swim classes resume?

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Yes, as long as the group size is no larger than 50 swimmers and social distancing is maintained between groups, during classes, drop off, and pickup.

Can lap swimmers pass closer than 6 feet from each other in neighboring lanes?

Yes, swimmers can pass closer than 6 feet from each other in neighboring lanes.

What are the healthy behavior, environment and operation guidelines pools must follow?

Healthy Behaviors

- Encourage all staff and patrons to wash their hands often and to cover coughs and sneezes.
- Encourage the use of cloth face coverings when not able to practice social distancing.
 - Do not wear cloth face coverings when in the water or humid environments as it can make breathing difficult!
- Educate staff and patrons on the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Post signs with the following, or substantially similar, language at all entrances to the facility.
 - "People with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using this facility."
 - "Observe social distancing in this facility. No loitering in common areas."
- Ensure adequate amounts of soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans are available.

Healthy Environment

- Clean and Disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used.
- Determine which disinfectant will work best for your facility. Some surfaces can be damaged by harsh cleaning chemicals.
 - [List N disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
 - Pool water is not an approved sanitizer or disinfectant.
- Develop procedures to identify and separate used furniture and equipment from clean. Examples include:
 - Labeled bins for used pools toys and floats that need to be disinfected before use by another person.
 - Monitor deck furniture to clean between users.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of all disinfectants.
- Ensure indoor ventilation systems are operating efficiently and providing adequate air exchange.
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Survey facility water systems to ensure they are safe. Long shut downs could require taking steps to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease.

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- Use physical barriers or visible cues to provide areas that facilitate a 6 foot separation between patrons. Examples include:
 - Lane markers, or floating lane lines to separate pool areas
 - Separation of deck tables and lounge chairs
 - Tape on the deck and sidewalks to designate waiting areas, or staging zones.
 - Mark stairs and walkways with directional arrows for incoming and outgoing traffic
- Monitor use of shared community spaces like locker rooms to avoid crowding and facilitate separation
- Discourage the sharing of items such as food, equipment and toys that cannot easily be disinfected between users.

Healthy Operations

- Front desk/gate attendant must track occupancy, incoming and outgoing to ensure maximum occupancy does not exceed 75 percent capacity of normal bather load;
- Patrons must observe social distancing requirements.
 - 6 foot spacing between unassociated patrons (i.e. not family members);
 - 6 foot spacing between groups of no more than 50.
- The facility must reduce their total occupancy if they are unable to observe these social distancing requirements.
- Educate staff on the symptoms of COVID-19 and advise them to stay home when ill.
- Conduct health assessments of all staff as they come on shift.
- Lifeguards that are actively lifeguarding must not be expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing of others.
- Follow certification agency recommendations for lifeguard rescues, and first aid during the pandemic.
- Youth swim classes
 - Group size no larger than 50 swimmers;
 - Social distancing facilitated between groups, during classes, drop off, and pickup.

Where can I find more information?

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>