



MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR BUSINESSES PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES – Phase III, Step 1

Amended 8.31.2020

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the authority granted to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) pursuant to [COVID-19 Order No. 43](#) to issue workplace safety standards for operators of and participants in outdoor recreational activities, the following guidelines apply to Businesses Providing Outdoor Recreational Experiences and Educational Activities as part of Phase III, Step 1 of the Commonwealth's reopening. Authorized Phase III, Step 1 activities may not begin until Phase III is initiated by Order of the Governor.

In Phase III, Step 1, Businesses Providing Outdoor Recreational Experiences and Educational Activities, including seasonal agricultural tourism, ski area summer and fall activities, alpine slides, zip-lines, horse riding schools and stables, mountain biking, shooting and archery ranges, mini-golf, motorsports venues, go carts, outdoor rock climbing, disc golf, and outdoor paintball facilities may operate; provided, however, that the safety measures outlined below are implemented by venue operators.

Indoor recreation businesses should refer to the [Indoor Recreation Business guidance](#).

This document provides guidance for how to implement general workplace safety standards and other public health guidance ("COVID-19 measures") in the context of outdoor recreational operations in Phase III of the Commonwealth's reopening. Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 43. Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase III, they must still comply with all federal, state and local laws.

The public health data and guidance on which this document is based can and does change frequently. The most recent version of this document can be found on the Commonwealth's website, <http://www.mass.gov/>

LIMITATIONS ON OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

Businesses providing outdoor recreational experiences and educational activities, including seasonal agricultural tourism, ski area summer and fall activities, alpine slides, zip-lines, horse riding schools and stables, mountain biking, shooting and archery ranges, mini-golf, motorsports venues, go carts, outdoor rock climbing, disc golf, and outdoor paintball facilities may operate; provided, however, that the safety measures outlined below are implemented by venue operators.



In addition to complying with the aforementioned limitations, operators must implement the following safety measures detailed below.

IMPLEMENTING SAFETY MEASURES FOR YOUR OPERATION

Businesses providing outdoor recreational experiences and educational activities (as specified above) must ensure that the following COVID-19 Measures to protect consumers and employees.

Social Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces • Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing • Provide signage for safe social distancing • Require face coverings or masks for all employees and customers
Hygiene Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand-washing capabilities throughout the workplace • Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so • Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site
Staffing and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols • Employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to work • Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work, and a return-to-work plan
Cleaning and Disinfecting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business • When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed • Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace

The application of these measures for businesses providing outdoor recreational experiences and education is detailed below.

I. Social Distancing

General:

- ❖ Group activities where social distancing cannot be maintained are limited to a single reservation group.
- ❖ Group activities are limited to no more than 25 people in any pit (motorsport venues, go carts), playing area (paintball playing field, horse riding arena) or course (mini-golf, disc golf, outdoor rock-climbing, corn maze). Social distancing must be maintained at all times. For larger venues, playing areas and courses, more than one group of 25 may participate at any one time, provided that adequate social distancing and group separation can be maintained. To



ensure group separation, the portions of a playing surface, course, or venue used by a group must be spaced at least 20 feet apart.

- ❖ Gatherings or events, including shows, competitions, tournaments, must comply with the [Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities](#), as well as any other sector or activity-specific guidance and social distancing protocols.
- ❖ Operators must ensure that on-site guest and staff density is managed to allow for social distancing.
- ❖ Online registration and online waivers should be used whenever possible to provide a touch-free registration process upon arrival. If online registration is not possible, social distancing guidelines must be implemented.
- ❖ Stagger lunch and break times for employees, regulating maximum number of people in one place and ensuring at least six feet of physical distancing during any meeting.
- ❖ Face coverings are required for all workers and customers in accordance with COVID-19 Order 31: [Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible](#) to prevent against the transmission of COVID-19.
- ❖ Minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., elevators, control rooms, vehicles) by more than one individual at a time; all employees in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings.
- ❖ Where possible, operators should delineate on-site parking according to social distancing guidelines. Guests and employees are not allowed to loiter or tailgate in parking area.
- ❖ Operators shall establish pedestrian traffic flows to reduce likelihood of customer interaction and six-foot spacing markings for queues.
- ❖ Operators shall establish best practices and patterns for traffic flow for restrooms to maintain social distancing.
- ❖ Limit any nonessential visitors, spectators, staff, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible. Operators are encouraged to mark off spectator/chaperone viewing sites to allow for social distancing.
- ❖ Curb-side pick-up and online reservations are encouraged for equipment rentals where possible and should have designated drop-off location for used gear and systems to ensure social distancing.
- ❖ Outfitting area shall display designated social distance guidelines and marked spaces for individuals to stand while gearing-up, ensuring one individual per designated space.
- ❖ Course instructions shall take place while maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- ❖ Operators should ensure that groups depart the course and upon returning to base leave gear in designated area while maintaining social distancing
- ❖ Operators shall stagger start and guest arrival times to ensure each trip has left the check-in location before next trip arrives for registration.
- ❖ Only staff person(s) with protective mask or face covering and gloves may assist guests with harnesses, equipment, or other preparations necessary to conduct an activity.
- ❖ Transportation for customers, if applicable, should be limited to a single reservation groups (1 reservation) plus a driver. For larger vehicles, transportation can be utilized by more than one reservation group provided that capacity is limited to no more than 50% of vehicle capacity,



distance is maintained between groups, such as leaving an unoccupied row/seats between groups and customers, and drivers and staff must wear face coverings at all times while in the vehicle. Windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation. Open-air wagons such as hayrides may operate in accordance with the aforementioned limitations. All passengers and operators are required to wear face coverings at all times.

- ❖ Operators should create assigned staging areas for reservation groups to ensure adequate social distancing between groups
- ❖ **Outdoor Adventure Recreation:**
 - Riders for downhill tubing, alpine slides, chairlifts, aerial tramways or amusement rides may only ride with household/reservation group members.
 - Loading, unloading, and riding aerial tramways, summer downhill rides and other activities must allow for social distancing.
- ❖ **Motorsports Venue Operators:**
 - Motorsports venue operators should provide spacing of no less than six feet apart for vehicle parking. Pit areas, tents and race trailers should be spaced no less than 12 feet apart. Dedicated garage spacing between teams or individuals should be no less than 12 feet apart. Race trailers and haulers should only have one individual inside at any time. Hotlaps/ride alongs are discouraged.
- ❖ **Outdoor Interactive Performances**
 - Operators, facilities, and businesses using actors or performance as part of their outdoor recreation operations, such as outdoor haunted houses or haunted mazes must follow the [Safety Standards for Theaters and Performance Venues](#).

II. Hygiene Protocols

- ❖ All employees and customers must wear face coverings or masks in any situations where social distancing is not possible unless it is unsafe to do so.
- ❖ Operators must minimize equipment sharing and clean and disinfect any shared equipment at the end of each use using a product from the [list of disinfectants meeting EPA criteria for use against the novel coronavirus](#)
- ❖ Employers, to the extent practicable, shall install hand sanitizer stations at the entry and exit of activity for use prior to loading and after unloading.
- ❖ Lift operators must wear protective equipment at all times, including facial coverings and other relevant protection, such as gloves.
- ❖ If available, ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, and allow sufficient break time for employees to wash hands to frequently; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative.
- ❖ Employers must supply employees at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
- ❖ Employers must require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms.
- ❖ Employers must post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees of the hygiene and safety protocols.



III. Staffing and Operations

- ❖ Retail shops shall adhere to retail guidelines.
- ❖ Food service shall adhere to restaurant guidelines.
- ❖ Operators must provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission.
Limit non-essential personnel on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility if possible.
- ❖ Log everyone who comes in contact with site, including staff and patrons, to enable contact tracing (name and phone number or name and email address). It is recommended that at least one member per household/car is logged to assist with contact tracing.
- ❖ Employees must stay home if feeling ill.
- ❖ Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19 to disclose to the workplace employer for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing. If the employer is notified of a positive case at the workplace, the employer shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the workplace is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be recommended consistent with guidance and / or at the request of the LBOH.
- ❖ Employees who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home.
- ❖ Post notice to employees, workers, and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures.
- ❖ Employers should take measures to ensure employees comply with all State-issued rules concerning out of state travel for any employer-paid or employer-reimbursed travel.
- ❖ **Mini-Golf:**
 - Operators must frequently disinfect any common use equipment, including but not limited to, bunker rakes and ball washers.
 - Use single-use scorecards and pencils.
 - Notify golfers that flag sticks must remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised or otherwise adjusted so that players do not reach into the hole to retrieve a ball.
- ❖ **Horseback Riding Schools and Stables:**
 - Private and semi-private lessons, including group therapy riding lessons, continue to be allowed in Phase III. Horseback Riding Schools and Stable operators should ensure activities comply with the [*Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities*](#).

IV. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ❖ Aerial tramway lift chairs, amusement rides, alpine slides, and other shared equipment and rides, etc., must be sanitized periodically throughout the day and at the end of the day.
 - Disinfectant wipes shall be located near the loading area at each aerial tramway terminal so customers can sanitize lift chairs as they lower the restraining bar.



- ❖ All rental gear and shared equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to and after use.
 - Harnesses, safety gear, and helmets must be cleaned and disinfected between use (per manufacturer recommendations and any applicable CDC and DPH guidance) or quarantined for 48 hours.
 - High touch points for carts or tubes, including handles, the brake levers, seat belt, and other heavily touched areas of the cart, or device shall be sanitized before every cycle.
- ❖ All vehicles shall be cleaned and disinfected regularly and not less than daily.
- ❖ Conduct regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, handrails, door handles, and restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and sanitized following the [EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices](#)
- ❖ Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.
- ❖ In event of a positive case, shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance.