



Reopening New York

Lake and Ocean Beach Activities Guidelines for Employers and Employees

These guidelines apply to all lake and ocean beach operations statewide.

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, all public and private owners/operators of lake and ocean beaches, and shorelines, should stay up to date with any changes to state and federal requirements related to lake and ocean beach activities and incorporate those changes into their operations. This guidance is not intended to replace any existing applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and standards.

	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Physical Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The maximum facility capacity must be reduced to 50% of a normal summer season capacity. ✓ Capacity in indoor areas (e.g. changing areas, equipment sheds, locker rooms, restrooms) must be reduced to no more than 50% of the maximum occupancy for a particular area as set by the certificate of occupancy, unless it is designed for a single occupant or additional personal protective measures are implemented (e.g. face coverings at all times). ✓ To reduce interpersonal contact and congregation among people who are not members of the same household/family unit, establish a Site Safety Plan, which includes a density reduction component, incorporating this guidance and all applicable Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH COVID-19 guidance. The plan must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate site-specific physical distancing and cleaning/disinfection criteria and other best practices consistent with this guidance. • Adequate staffing guidelines to reinforce social distancing and proper hygiene and deter crowding, group activities (e.g. beach volleyball, football) and large gatherings. • Public outreach campaign to reinforce capacity limitations, social distancing, and sanitization protocols. ✓ Except for members of the same household/family unit, ensure 6 ft. distance between individuals, including employees and members of the public, unless safety or core function of a work activity requires a shorter distance (e.g. providing emergency assistance to a beachgoer). ✓ Ensure 10 ft. of distance between beach blankets and chairs, except for members of the same household/family unit. ✓ Any time individuals are less than 6 ft. apart from one another, they must wear acceptable face coverings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Create additional space for employees by limiting in-person presence to only personnel necessary for the current task(s), adjusting workplace hours, staggering arrival/departure times, creating A/B teams, and/or scheduling only one team in an area at a time. ✓ Modify the layout and use of workstations (e.g. lifeguard chairs and towers) to maintain 6 ft. distance and avoid multiple crews and/or teams working in one area. If not feasible, provide and require face coverings or enact physical barriers (e.g. plastic shielding walls), in accordance with OSHA guidelines, in areas where they would not impair air flow, heating, cooling, or ventilation. ✓ Post social distancing markers using flags, ropes, or signs in the sand that denote 10 ft. of spacing throughout areas of the beach where individuals lay/set up blankets and chairs. ✓ Demarcate or flag 6 ft. spacing on the sand along the beachfront/lakeshore. ✓ Relocate bike routes and racks to improve pedestrian traffic spacing and flow along boardwalks and paths. ✓ Install physical barriers in ticket, information, and beach booths and service windows. ✓ Limit number of employees that interface with the public. ✓ Limit number of lifeguards in chairs and add or adjust chair locations. ✓ Reduce bi-directional foot traffic by posting signs with arrows in narrow aisles, boardwalks, or spaces. ✓ Limit the number of vehicles allowed in parking fields and establish separate egress/ingress and one-way routes for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Physical Distancing (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Post social distancing markers (e.g. tape, flags in the sand) that denote 6 ft. of spacing in high-traffic areas (e.g. restroom lines, ticket lines). ✓ Limit non-essential in-person gatherings as much as possible. ✓ No gatherings of any size are allowed, except for groups from within the same household/family unit. ✓ Restrooms must have frequent cleaning and disinfection measures in place; indoor showers, pavilions, playgrounds, swimming pools (subject to further guidance) must be closed. Drinking fountains may remain open if a touchless activation system or foot pedal is installed. ✓ Amusement parks, as well as arcades and other places of public amusement, located on beaches, boardwalks, and lakes must remain closed until further notice. ✓ Except in an emergency, the congregation, beaching, or tying together of multiple vessels (e.g. kayaks, canoes, rowboats) within a facility is prohibited to avoid group gatherings. Vessels may be beached and/or tied together for storage, without any persons using them. ✓ Organized or "pick-up" sports, leagues, and contact activities; special events, festivals, concerts, fireworks, and movies are not permitted. ✓ Concessions businesses, food/beverage sales via concession or restaurant vendors, and rental activity (e.g. chairs, lounges) are prohibited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Limit parking to alternate spaces. ✓ Consider touchless payment, where possible; and if not possible, have hand hygiene supplies (e.g. hand sanitizer) for use after each transaction. ✓ Essential in-person gatherings (e.g. staff meeting) should be held in open, well-ventilated spaces with appropriate social distancing among participants.
Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Employers must provide employees with an acceptable face covering at no-cost to the employee and have an adequate supply of coverings in case of replacement. Lifeguards/water safety personnel must wear a face covering when on patrol and interacting within 6 ft. of coworkers or members of the public, except when performing lifesaving or emergency response activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide each lifeguard with a pack of PPE, including a mask, gloves, hand sanitizer, CPR mask, safety glasses, and a surgical mask for beachgoers who are pulled from the water.



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	Mandatory	Recommended Best Practices
Protective Equipment (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks, unless the nature of the work requires stricter PPE (e.g. N95 respirator, face shield). ✓ Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded. ✓ Limit the sharing of objects (e.g. tools, towels, vehicles) and discourage touching of shared surfaces; or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical); or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact. 	
Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Adhere to hygiene and sanitation requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and New York State Department of Health (DOH) and maintain cleaning logs on site that document date, time, and scope of cleaning/disinfection. ✓ Ensure lifeguards and water safety personnel comply with DOH standards and guidance relating to COVID-19. ✓ Provide and maintain hand hygiene stations on site, including handwashing with soap, water, and paper towels, as well as an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not available or practical. ✓ Provide and encourage employees to use cleaning and disinfecting supplies before and after use of shared and frequently touched surfaces, followed by hand hygiene. ✓ If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfecting causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, personnel should have access to a hand hygiene station between use and/or be supplied with disposable gloves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For any indoor spaces, wherever possible, increase ventilation of outdoor air (e.g. opening windows and doors) while maintaining safety precautions. ✓ For public and privately owned beach facilities, consider installing touchless hand dryers and/or paper towel dispensers for restroom facilities. ✓ Encourage employees to bring lunch from home and reserve adequate space for employees to observe social distancing while eating meals.



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Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection (cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas at appropriate intervals in accordance with CDC and DOH guidelines, particularly in spaces that are accessible to staff, the public, or other individuals, including, but not limited to: restroom facilities, lifeguard stands or towers, gates, ticket or sales booths, shower pedestals, counter tops, sinks, door knobs, and other frequently touched surfaces, using Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) products identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against COVID-19. ✓ All sanitary facilities (e.g. changing rooms, locker rooms, outdoor showers, restrooms) must be cleaned and disinfected at least three times daily with emphasis on frequent enhanced cleaning and disinfection of "high touch" surfaces and high use spaces. Regularly stock them with hand washing supplies and sanitizer. ✓ Except in cases involving the same household, no beach or swimming equipment may be shared, unless it has been cleaned and disinfected between users. ✓ Prohibit shared food and beverages among employees (e.g. self-serve meals and beverages). 	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Affirm you have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines, and that you will implement them. ✓ Post signage throughout parking areas, ticketing stations, entrances, and congregate-use facilities to remind patrons and employees to adhere to proper hygiene, social distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, and cleaning and disinfecting protocols. ✓ Develop a public outreach campaign for the safety and density reduction plan, through measures such as signage, social media, websites, or radio. ✓ Lifeguards must be trained to enforce beach social distancing and crowd control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement lifeguard training and beach operation plans, which can include limiting the number of lifeguards at a given time on any stand or tower while adding lifeguard towers, as necessary, to maintain social distance between lifeguards while providing the same coverage and protection necessary to ensure public safety. ✓ Establish a communication plan for employees and visitors, with a consistent means to provide updated information.



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Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ If a worker tests positive for COVID-19, employer must immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close or proximate contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations. ✓ Have available completed safety plans on site. ✓ Although beaches are open, patrons must abide by guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be prepared. Bring an acceptable face covering to wear within 6 ft. of people outside your household/family unit and soap/sanitizer and pack out all trash. • Maintain a physical distance of 6 ft. or more and avoid gatherings of any kind, except among members of the same household/family unit. Large gatherings, picnics, and beach parties are not allowed. Visitors will be asked to leave if there are too many people at the beach or on trails to allow for the required physical distance. • Individual or family ocean activities (e.g. surfing, swimming, kayaking, paddle boarding, body surfing), running, or walking on the sand are allowed. ✓ Implement mandatory health screening assessment (e.g. questionnaire, temperature check) before employees begin work each day, asking about (1) COVID-19 symptoms in past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 test in past 14 days, and/or (3) close or proximate contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in past 14 days. Assessment responses must be reviewed and such review must be documented. ✓ Patrons cannot be mandated to complete a health screen or provide contact information. ✓ Have a plan for cleaning, disinfection, and contact tracing in the event of a positive case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Perform screening remotely (e.g. by telephone or electronic survey), before employees report to the site, to the extent possible. ✓ To the extent possible, maintain a log of every worker who may have close or proximate contact with other individuals at the work site or area; excluding deliveries that are performed with appropriate PPE or through contactless means. Log should contain contact information, such that all contacts may be identified, traced and notified in the event an employee is diagnosed with COVID-19. ✓ Screeners should be trained by employer-identified individuals familiar with CDC, DOH, and OSHA protocols and wear appropriate PPE, including at a minimum, a face covering. ✓ Refer to DOH guidance regarding protocols and policies for employees seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the employee had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19. ✓ Patrons may be given the option to provide contact information so they can be logged and contacted for contact tracing, if necessary.