



Procedures for Notification to the Department of Health of Beach Opening

May 19, 2020

Purpose: The State's response to the COVID-19 outbreak requires a coordinated statewide and regional approach to assure public health and safety of New York State's residents and visitors. Consistency in response will avoid confusion, inefficiencies, and will protect public health.

On March 7, 2020, the Governor issued an Executive Order declaring a State Disaster Emergency, and pursuant to such Declaration, the State has exercised its authority to direct and coordinate all emergency response operations and activities to respond to this public health emergency. Each local government (e.g. county, city, town, and village) is required to obtain the approval of the New York State Department of Health (DOH) prior to issuing any emergency order pursuant to Executive Law §24. (See EO 202.5).

On April 13, Governor Cuomo announced formation of a [seven state council](#) to implement a fully integrated regional framework to gradually ease social isolation without triggering renewed spread of COVID-19.

On May 15, Governor Cuomo announced a [multi-state agreement](#) to reopen public and private beaches with certain restrictions in place effective May 22, 2020, to allow such beaches to safely open for the Memorial Day holiday and thereafter.

Consistent with this approach, DOH is issuing this guidance to provide a procedure for local governments to opt-in to lakeshore and ocean beach opening for the 2020 Memorial Day Holiday by submitting a notice of such reopening to DOH.

Any local government must submit notice to DOH to open a local lakeshore or ocean beach. Such notice must, at a minimum, require:

- The local government acknowledge and agree they will abide by the minimum requirements of [minimum State standards](#) for lakeshore and ocean beach operations; and
- The local government acknowledge and agree they will fully enforce the minimum state Standards, as well as any additional rules or conditions imposed by the local government, in order for the beach to remain open.

Any local government opting to open their beach for the Memorial Day holiday must notify DOH by Wednesday, May 20 by email to OpenBeach2020@health.ny.gov.

A local government choosing to open their beach at any point after the Memorial Day holiday must still notify DOH, at least forty-eight hours prior to such opening.

For additional information on the COVID-19 response, please visit:

New York State Department of Health's COVID-19 Webpage
<https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Webpage:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

The New York State Novel Coronavirus Hotline can be reached 24/7 at 1-888-364-3065.