

Phase Two Guidance Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Parks and Open Spaces

During Phase Two, the public and businesses must adopt behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk for all. This guidance is intended for the public, employees and management of parks and open spaces during Phase Two and reflects the modifications put in place with Mayor's Orders 2020-119, 2020-123, 2020-126, and 2020-127. **The following measures must be implemented at parks and open spaces to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.** For additional information, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo.

Please note that any individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or recently exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, must not work in or visit public places due to the risk of exposing others. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or otherwise feeling unwell.

Mayor's Order 2020-127 Modifications (December 23 through January 15)

- **UPDATE:** [Mayor's Order 2020-127](#), issued December 18, 2020, establishes temporary pauses in various activities from 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2020, until 5:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021, including immediately adjusting Mayor's Order 2020-126 so as to remove the percentage capacity and numeric caps on retail food sellers; and extends the Public Emergency and Public Health Emergency.
- The pauses imposed by Section III of Mayor's Order 2020-127 are time limited and all other regulations affecting those sectors remain in place and are not superseded. This Order supersedes any Mayor's Order issued during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency only to the extent of any inconsistency.
- **Under Mayor's Order 2020-127, 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 to Friday, January 15, 2021, Department of Parks and Recreation may only offer reservations for individual swim and fitness room sessions.**

Phase Two Basic Information for Parks and Open Spaces

- General operations guidance for Parks and Open Spaces is superseded by Mayor's Order 2020-127 which establishes a temporary pause in activities from 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 23, 2020, until 5:00 a.m. on Friday, January 15, 2021.
- **UPDATE:** Even with small, spaced cohorts of participants engaging in exercise or using Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) facilities, **there must be no more than 250 persons on a (DPR) field or in a particular DPR facility at one time.**
- **High-contact sports are prohibited** in the District of Columbia during Phase Two.
- Outdoor activities are preferred over indoor activities; however, it is important to understand that **the more people that interact in any setting increases the risk of COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks**, and the same preventive measures need to be followed.
- Field permits for organized sports and team play will no longer be issued, and existing permits must only be used for non-contact drills and workouts for youth younger than high school and for adults.

The following are open/allowed with safeguards:

- Parks, walking paths, fields, cemeteries, and waterways
- Dog parks
- Golf courses, tennis courts, and tracks
- Clubhouses (If open, services offered in clubhouses must adhere to setting specific

guidance that can be found at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance

- Plazas
- Limited playgrounds, only if enhanced cleaning and sanitation can be followed
- No-to-low-contact community sports (like tennis), training, and games
- Low to moderate contact sports may occur on a casual basis.
- Individual exercise with social distancing
- **Please review *Guidance for Playing Sports* for definitions of high, moderate, and low contact sports at coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo.**

Staff and Visitors Must Practice Everyday Prevention Measures

- **Stay at home if you feel unwell** or you were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- **Practice social distancing.** Keep 6 feet of distance between you and other people who are not in your household.
- You must **wear a mask or cloth face covering** when around other people who are not in your household. Masks protect the wearer and protect other people.
 - Masks are not required for children 2 and under.
 - For more information about mask wearing see *Masks and Cloth Face Coverings for the General Public* at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
- Bring your own water to minimize touching non-contactless water fountains.
- Perform frequent hand hygiene (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer). Bring hand sanitizer with you from home.
 - Key times to perform hand hygiene include:
 - Before eating food,
 - After using the toilet,
 - Before and after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings,
 - Before and after visiting playgrounds,
 - Before and after participating in activities or events, and
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Considerations for Park or Facility Management

- Management must provide supplies to allow for frequent hand hygiene (e.g., soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol) in employee and public areas.
- Management must provide staff with appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g., masks, gloves) and cloth face coverings.
- Gloves must be worn as indicated per routine job responsibilities.
- Signage must be displayed that encourages appropriate use of face coverings, social distancing and hand hygiene throughout the space.
- Signage must be displayed to remind visitors that **water playgrounds/splash parks and moderate-to-high contact community sports games remain closed.**
- Ensure that lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing of others. This monitoring responsibility must be assigned to another staff member.
- Stagger shifts, start times, and break times.
- Implement leave policies that are flexible and non-punitive, and that allow sick employees to stay home. Leave policies are recommended to account for the following:
 - Employees who report COVID-19 symptoms,
 - Employees who were tested for COVID-19 and test results are pending,
 - Employees who tested positive for COVID-19,
 - Employees who are a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19,

- Employees who need to stay home with their children if there are school or childcare closures, or to care for sick family members.
- A **close contact** is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, while the person was infectious.
- Keep abreast of current law, which has amended both the DC Family and Medical Leave Act and the DC Sick and Safe Leave Law and created whole new categories of leave, like Declared Emergency Leave.
- Learn about and inform your employees about COVID-related leave provided through new federal law, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and all applicable District law relating to sick leave.
- Management must educate employees about COVID-19. Refer to coronavirus.dc.gov for more information.
- **For additional information specific to Parks and Recreational Facilities**, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html.

Avoid Close Contact and Reduce Touchpoints

- Areas where people are likely to gather must be monitored. Consider temporary closure of these areas to support social distancing practices. These areas might include: sports fields, playgrounds, skateparks, basketball courts, tennis courts, and picnic areas. In the event of facility closures, park administrators may place physical barriers in these areas and must post signs communicating that the area is closed.
- Prohibit congregating and post signage reminding people not to gather in larger groups than allowed.
- Provide physical guides to ensure that people remain at least 6 feet apart while in the park. For example, markings on the ground, colored tape, or signs to indicate safe distances.
- **For playgrounds**, limit the number of individuals in the playground to maintain adequate social distancing.
 - Remind visitors to practice hand hygiene, including before and immediately after use of playgrounds or other shared recreational structures.
- Locker rooms (other than restrooms) must remain closed.
- Have patrons use every other stall for driving ranges at golf courses.
- Use contactless payment and waiver process. Prohibit the use of fingerprinting for verification of membership.

Screen and Monitor for Symptoms

- Management must conduct employee health screenings daily (e.g., symptom questionnaires), prior to beginning work, over the phone or in person.
 - For **Screening Tool Guidance**, visit coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
- Employees who report symptoms or testing positive for COVID-19 must not enter the premises.
- Management must post signage at entrances to inform staff of screening procedures and to inform staff and visitors not to enter if they feel sick.
- If an employee develops any symptoms of COVID-19 during the workday, there must be a plan in place for that individual to immediately isolate, notify their supervisor, and leave the facility.
- Management must maintain a daily record of individuals who attend public events and other planned activities for at least 30 days to facilitate contact tracing.

Clean and Disinfect

- The facility must have a comprehensive plan for routinely cleaning and disinfecting common spaces and high-touch surface areas (e.g., handrails,

doorknobs, light switches, restrooms).

- For playgrounds, play structures, and park equipment:
 - Any shared items (i.e., sporting equipment, training equipment) must be cleaned and disinfected in between uses.
 - Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection (i.e., do not spray disinfectant on sidewalks, playgrounds, and in parks).
 - Maintain existing cleaning and hygiene practices for outdoor areas. Normal cleaning with soap and water will decrease the amount of the virus on surfaces and objects, which reduces the risk of exposure.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden or porous surfaces (play structures, wooden benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
 - The following are additional recommendations for playgrounds:
 - Non-porous surfaces must be cleaned on an enhanced schedule. Specific attention must be given to high touch surfaces, such as grab bars and railings.
 - Personnel must inspect the equipment to make sure that it is dry before allowing use.
 - Shared playground equipment such as rubber balls, jump ropes, etc. must be either cleaned after each use or removed from the playground.
- Restrooms must:
 - Remain open with operational and functional toilets, and regularly stocked with supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands.
 - Be cleaned and disinfected daily, or more often if possible (especially high-touch surface areas such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches).
- Drinking fountains must be cleaned and disinfected.
- For more information about cleaning and disinfection in a community building and the disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, see the CDC website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html).

Facility Considerations

- Consider making the following improvements to improve ventilation in any buildings ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html)):
 - Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, for example by opening windows and doors.
 - Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk (e.g., risk of falling, triggering asthma symptoms).
 - Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and provide acceptable indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space.
 - Improve central air filtration to the highest compatible with the filter rack, and seal edges of the filter to limit bypass.
 - Increase ventilation rates.
 - Check filters to ensure they are within service life and appropriately installed.
 - Keep systems running longer hours, 24/7 if possible, to enhance air exchanges in the building space.
 - Consult with a specialist to see what works for your building
- If buildings were closed for an extended period of time, remember to ensure all building and water features (e.g., drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use. For more information, see CDC's Guidance for Reopening Buildings after Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html).

Establish a Plan for COVID-19 Exposure

- Establish a plan in the event an employee or patron is diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Identify a point of contact at the establishment that an employee can notify if they test positive for COVID-19 and choose to disclose this information.
- If an individual develops any of the symptoms above during the workday, there must be a plan in place for that individual to immediately isolate, notify their supervisor, and leave the establishment.
- If an employee chooses to report to the establishment that they are positive for COVID-19, the establishment must have a notification process to share the following with staff:
 - Education about COVID-19, including the signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - Referral to the Guidance for Contacts of a Person Confirmed to have COVID-19, available at coronavirus.dc.gov.
 - Information on options for COVID-19 testing in the District of Columbia, available at coronavirus.dc.gov/testing.
- Refer to the guidance “First Steps for Non-Healthcare Employers when Employees Test Positive for COVID-19” at coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance.
 - A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period, during that person’s infectious period.
 - The infectious period starts two days before symptom onset and typically ends 10 days after symptom onset (or test date for people who do not have symptoms).
- Establishments must notify DC Health when:
 - An employee that frequently interacts with patrons notifies the establishment they **tested positive for COVID-19** (not before results come back)
 - **AND**
 - the person was on site **during their infectious period**.
- Notify DC Health by submitting an online form on the DC Health COVID-19 Reporting Requirements website dchealth.dc.gov/page/covid-19-reporting-requirements:
 - Submit a **Non-Healthcare Facility COVID-19 Consult Form**.
- An investigator from DC Health will follow-up within 48 hours to all appropriately submitted notifications. Please note this time may increase as cases of COVID-19 increase in the District.

The guidelines above will continue to be updated as the outbreak evolves. Please visit coronavirus.dc.gov regularly for the most current information.