



MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR BUSINESSES PROVIDING OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

May 18, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On May 18, 2020, Governor Baker issued *COVID-19 Order No. 33: Order Implementing a Phased Reopening of Workplaces and Imposing Workplace Safety Measures to Address COVID-19*, implementing a phased reopening of workplaces and imposing workplace safety measures to address COVID-19. That same day, he issued *COVID-19 Order No. 34: Order Expanding Access to and Use of State Beaches and Addressing Other Outdoor Recreational Activities*, which directed the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs “to issue guidance for the implementation of the generally applicable COVID-19 workplace standards by operators of and participants in outdoor recreational activities.”

This document provides guidance for businesses providing outdoor recreational experiences and educational activities on how to implement those general workplace safety standards and other public health guidance (“COVID-19 measures”) in the context of their outdoor recreational operations in the first phase (“Phase 1”) of the Commonwealth’s reopening. Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 33. Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase 1, 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/>

Any questions regarding this guidance can be sent to outdoor.recreation@mass.gov

LIMITATIONS ON OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

COVID-19 Order No. 33 permits certain outdoor recreational activities and facilities to resume operations on May 25, 2020, provided that those operations meet safety standards and comply with the terms and conditions of the Order.

The Order provides that businesses providing outdoor recreational experiences and educational activities, including ski area summer activities, alpine slides, zip-lines, horse riding schools and stables, mountain biking, shooting and archery ranges may open in Phase 1; provided, however, that any group activity where social distancing cannot be maintained be limited to members of a single household group.



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

IMPLEMENTING SAFETY MEASURES FOR YOUR OPERATION

COVID-19 Order No. 33 organizes safety measures into four distinct categories, social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting. 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

- ❖ 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, regulating maximum number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing during any meeting



- ❖ Face coverings are required for all workers, except where doing so may introduce a safety hazard to workers or where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability
- ❖ 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 6-foot spacing markings for queues
- ❖ Operators shall establish best practices and patterns for traffic flow for restrooms to maintain social distancing
- ❖ Loading, unloading, and riding aerial tramways, summer downhill rides and other activities must allow for social distancing
- ❖ Equipment rentals (e.g., bikes) are restricted to curbside pick-up and online reservations, where possible and should have designated drop-off location for used gear and systems to ensure social distancing
- ❖ Adventure Parks (or self-guided adventures) and Ziplines are restricted to reserved units with a maximum size 8 per designated arrival
- ❖ Riders for downhill tubing, alpine slides, chairlifts, aerial tramways or amusement rides may only ride with household members
- ❖ Operators must stagger planned guest arrival times to ensure each trip has left the check in location before next trip arrives for registration
- ❖ Operators must ensure that on-site guest and staff density is maintained to allow for 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 up to a maximum of 8
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Guests should be encouraged to “arrive, play at height and leave” -- no congregating before or after the activity

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
- ❖ Employers 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
- ❖ Only staff person(s) with protective mask or face covering and gloves may check guest



- harness and equipment
- ❖ Transportation for guests is limited to one household group at a time. Customers and staff should wear face coverings during transit
- ❖ 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 visible signage throughout the site to remind employees on the hygiene and safety protocols

III. Staffing and Operations

- ❖ Retail shops shall adhere to retail guidelines (i.e., limited to curbside pick-up).
- ❖ Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission
- ❖ Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility if possible
- ❖ Log everyone who comes in contact with site to enable contact tracing, including customers
- ❖ Employees must stay home if feeling ill.
- ❖ 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
- ❖ Encourage workers who test positive for COVID-19 to disclose to the employer for purposes of cleaning/disinfecting and contact tracing
- ❖ Post notice to employees, workers, and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures

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
- ❖ 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
- ❖ 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 must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to and after use
- ❖ All vehicles shall be cleaned and disinfected between trips
- ❖ 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



- ❖ Conduct regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, 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