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**Memorandum**

**From:** Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

**Date:** May 18, 2020

**Subject:** Specific Safety and Reopening Standards for Mountain Biking and Cycling

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The following guidelines apply to mountain biking and trail cycling at parks, forests, and outdoor recreational centers during Phase 1 of the Commonwealth's Reopening.

Those individuals partaking in mountain biking and trail cycling at parks, forest, and outdoor facilities should abide by the specific guidelines outlined herein. All mountain biking and cycling activities should comply with assemblage guidance, *wear face covering where social distancing is not possible, and adhere to any property-specific guidance.*

This guidance should apply until amended or rescinded. Any questions regarding this guidance can be sent to [outdoor.recreation@mass.gov](mailto:outdoor.recreation@mass.gov)

**DPH Orders and Guidelines**

**Face Coverings and Masks:** All individuals participating in mountain biking and trail cycling activities at parks, forests, and outdoor recreational centers should comply with *COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible*. The order requires any person over the age of 2, whether indoors or outdoors, to wear a face covering or mask when they cannot maintain 6 feet of distance between themselves and others, unless they have a medical condition preventing them from doing so (see further guidance here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>).

**Group Size:** No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/march-31-2020-assemblage-guidance/download>

## **Parking and Capacity**

User capacity and parking restrictions are to be determined by land manager and local municipalities to encourage and maintain social distancing based upon size of open space.

### **User Guidelines:**

- ❖ Parking and capacity restrictions should make considerations for emergency access for Police and Fire and other safety standards.
- ❖ Linger in parking areas is prohibited.
- ❖ Parking outside of designated assigned parking is discouraged (i.e., parking along a roadway instead of the parking lot) unless it facilitates social distancing in order to provide access to the open space where otherwise designated parking is not available and is legal to do so.
- ❖ Illegally parked cars will be ticketed and may be towed.
- ❖ Ridesharing/carpooling to outdoor recreational activities with out-of-household members is discouraged.

### **Trail Cycling and Mountain Biking:**

- ❖ Cyclists should practice social distancing at all times based upon recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and the CDC.
- ❖ Trail cyclists should ride only in groups from the same household, and groups should be no larger than 10 people, consistent with Governor Baker's March 31, 2020 Order.
- ❖ Trail cyclists should not gather in groups or loiter at any time.
- ❖ When encountering other trail users, cyclists should maintain recommended social distancing by stopping and moving off the trail as to maintain proper distance. If unable to do so, cyclists should wear an appropriate face covering.
- ❖ Trail cyclists should be prepared with a face covering or mask where social distancing cannot be achieved.
- ❖ Trail cyclists must consider the likelihood of being attended to by an emergency or essential worker due to injury or an unforeseen circumstance.
- ❖ Trail cyclists must depart the open space post cycling activity immediately (i.e., no tailgating).
- ❖ Gatherings such as sanctioned group rides, sanctioned trail work, or races should be prohibited until such time as social distancing protocols have been lifted by the MDPH or guidelines have been placed on approved gathering size.