



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*  
*Boston, MA 02114*

Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1081  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

**Memorandum**

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

**Date:** June 9, 2020

**Subject:** Safety Standards for Coastal and Inland Beaches – Phase II

---

The following are safety standards for the management and use of coastal and inland beaches in the Commonwealth for Phase II of the Commonwealth's Reopening.

All beach managers and visitors should adopt the specific guidelines outlined herein. Property-specific guidelines should be posted at entrance points to beach areas and on relevant social media/websites. Guidelines provided herein apply to all inland and coastal beaches unless otherwise specified.

This guidance will apply until amended or rescinded.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

**General Guidelines**

**Face Coverings and Masks:** Consistent with [COVID-19 Order 31: Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places Where Social Distancing is Not Possible](#), which requires persons to wear face coverings while in public places to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and the Safer at Home Advisory issued by the Department of Public Health issued on May 18, 2020, all persons over the age of two must wear a face covering when they attend outdoor gatherings if the circumstances of the gathering could limit their ability to maintain at least six feet of distance from others, unless they are prevented from wearing a face covering by a medical or disabling condition. All persons are likewise advised to avoid close personal contact to prevent spreading the virus. Masks should not be worn while swimming.

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

## **Coastal and Inland Beaches – Manager and User Guidelines for Parking and Capacity**

- ❖ To allow for adequate social distancing for ingress, egress, and transit across the beach, beach capacity should be managed to accommodate a minimum of 12 feet distance between toweling/beach blanket groups. Toweling/Beach blanket groups are limited to groups no larger than 10.
- ❖ Parking lots, people entering the beach or other factors should be managed, if necessary, to limit beach capacity to accommodate adequate social distancing based on an assessment by the beach manager.
- ❖ Loading and unloading times for people and personal items at drop off areas should be limited, where possible. No loitering, tailgating.
- ❖ Picnic areas should be closed if social distancing cannot be maintained.

### **User Guidelines**

- ❖ Beach visitors are required to maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet or more at all times and visitors should maintain at least 12 feet minimum distance between toweling/beach blanket areas. Toweling/Beach blanket groups are limited to groups no larger than 10.
- ❖ No-contact ball games such as catch, kadima, Kan Jam and bocce can be allowed provided that social distancing can be maintained, and group size guidelines followed. No games, scrimmages, or tournaments. Persons seeking to organize youth or adult sport activities on a beach, such as volleyball, football, or soccer must follow the [Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Outdoor Adult Sports, Supervised Adult Youth Sports Leagues, Summer Sports Camps](#) guidance.
- ❖ Beach visitors shall abide by social distancing standards for bathroom lines and follow any established visual guidelines for maintaining a 6 feet distance in all restroom facilities.

### **Over Sand Vehicle (OSV) Coastal Beaches**

- ❖ Capacity for OSV beaches should be calculated by beach manager.
- ❖ Methodology for calculating beach capacity of OSVs should account for at least one car length (15 to 20 feet) between vehicles at high tide.
- ❖ Capacity for OSV should be clearly outlined and signed for potential users and made available on social media.
- ❖ Activities on OSV beaches should follow guideline of Beach Activities listed above.

### **Lifeguards**

- ❖ A minimum distance of 6 feet should be maintained between lifeguards, the public and lifeguard stands except in the case of an emergency.

### **Admissions/Contact Stations/Rentals**

- ❖ Admission/entry transactions, where possible, should be carried out through a no contact process such as online reservations, timed-ticketing, permit/sticker issuance or an on-site electronic transaction method that allows for social distancing guidelines to be followed. If not feasible, hand transactions and cash may be allowed.
- ❖ Any necessary visitors-staff interactions, whether in a vehicle or on foot, should be in accordance with social distancing.
- ❖ If renting equipment, all equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between use. If items cannot be properly disinfected, rental should not be allowed. Masks and snorkels should not be rented.

### **Restrooms, Comfort Stations, Showers**

- ❖ Managers should ensure that users can abide by social distancing standards for bathroom lines and follow any established visual guidelines for maintaining a 6-foot distance in all restroom facilities.
- ❖ In advance of the initial opening of public restrooms, the managing entity should adhere to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines pertaining to the cleaning and disinfection standards for interior spaces and that social distancing can be maintained.
- ❖ The managing entity should have the facilities cleaned at least once daily by staff and perform deep cleaning and disinfection services at least once per week and should follow the [\*EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices\*](#).
- ❖ Restroom facilities should contain adequate hand washing and/or sanitizer stations.
- ❖ Indoor shower facilities and changing facilities should remain closed in Phase II.
- ❖ Water bubblers, fountains and water refill stations should remain closed in Phase II.

### **Food Service, Concessions, and Vending**

- ❖ Food service shall follow all applicable food service and restaurant [guidelines](#).

### **Trash Disposal and Management**

- ❖ Trash disposal at beaches is available to the discretion of the city or town it is located in and/or the managing organization.
- ❖ Visitors of beaches should expect limited or no trash disposal receptacles. When visiting beaches without trash receptacles, visitors should adhere to a strict “carry in, carry out” policy and take waste with them.
- ❖ Where trash receptacles are available for normal use, beach managers should where feasible, provide no touch, lidless trashcans.

### **Shuttle Service to Beach Facilities**

- ❖ Shuttle services to the beach are closed in Phase II.