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Memorandum

From: Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Date: March 22, 2021

Subject: Safety Standards for Playgrounds, Spray Decks and Outdoor Fitness Areas – Phase IV, Step 1

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is providing guidance for the operation of all playgrounds and spray decks in parks, reservations and open space in Phase IV, Step 1 of the Commonwealth's Reopening. This guidance shall apply until amended or rescinded.

All visitors to playgrounds, spray decks and outdoor fitness areas (including associated seating or picnic areas), and managers associated with properties or activities herein, should abide by the specific guidelines outlined. Property-specific guidelines should be posted at entrance points to areas and on relevant social media/websites.

This guidance applies until amended or rescinded.

Social Distancing and Hygiene

- ❖ Persons using playgrounds, spray decks and outdoor fitness areas must maintain 6 feet from all other persons.
- ❖ Face coverings are required for all workers and customers in accordance with COVID-19 Order 55: [*Revised Order Requiring Face Coverings in Public Places*](#) to prevent against the transmission of COVID-19. Face coverings should not be worn while in the water.

- ❖ Playground, spray deck and outdoor fitness area operators should post signage encouraging distancing and use of face coverings.
- ❖ Parents, guardians and other adults supervising children should monitor children at all times to ensure children maintain proper distancing and adhere to requirements for face coverings.
- ❖ Where possible, playground and outdoor fitness area operators or staff (if available) are encouraged to limit capacity to allow for social distancing. If the facility is unstaffed, parents and guardians will be required to seek alternative facilities if the playground or spray deck is crowded such that social distancing cannot be maintained.
- ❖ Children and adults who feel sick or are recovering from an illness may not visit the playground, spray deck or outdoor fitness area.
- ❖ Users 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
- ❖ Restroom facilities, if available, should contain hand washing and/or sanitizer stations, and the public should use these stations before and after the use of the facilities.
- ❖ Playground and outdoor fitness area managers are encouraged, if feasible, to modify play structures to encourage social distancing (such as removing swings or moving seating).

General Sanitation

- ❖ Playground, spray deck and outdoor fitness area operators should familiarize themselves with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control guidance on cleaning your facility](#).
- ❖ In accordance with CDC guidance, outdoor areas, like playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas, generally require normal routine cleaning, but do not require disinfection.
- ❖ Cleaning:
 - High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, including grab bars and railings, tables and benches, should be frequently cleaned
 - Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.
- ❖ Consult with the company or engineer that designed the spray deck to decide which List N disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency external icon (EPA) are best for your spray deck venue.
- ❖ Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaners and disinfectants and store them securely away from children.
- ❖ All handwash sinks shall be fully stocked with soap and paper towels.
- ❖ Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol shall be available to any staff.