



## MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

### WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR BUSINESSES PROVIDING WHITE WATER RAFTING ACTIVITIES – Phase IV, Step 1

March 22, 2021

#### **INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the authority granted to the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) pursuant to [COVID-19 Order No. 66](#) to issue workplace safety standards for operators of and participants in outdoor recreational activities, the following guidelines apply to Businesses Providing White Water Rafting Activities as part of Phase IV, Step 1 of the Commonwealth's reopening.

In Phase IV, Step 1, Businesses Providing White Water Rafting Activities are permitted to operate subject to the limitations set forth below.

This document provides guidance for how to implement general workplace safety standards and other public health guidance ("COVID-19 measures") in the context of outdoor recreational operations in Phase IV of the Commonwealth's reopening. Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with [COVID-19 Order No. 66](#). Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase IV, 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/>

Operators must implement the following safety measures detailed below:

#### **I. Social Distancing**

- ❖ Limit occupants of a raft or kayak to a single reservation group unless social distancing of at least 6 feet can be maintained between multiple reservation groups and a guide, if applicable.
- ❖ Outfitters are encouraged to use online registration and online waivers. If online registration is not possible, social distancing guidelines must be followed.
- ❖ Businesses shall establish pedestrian traffic flows to maintain space for social distancing, including delineated 6-foot minimum markings in queues.
- ❖ Stagger lunch and break times for staff, 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 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



- ❖ Minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., check-in offices, vehicles) by more than one individual at a time; all employees in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings.

## **II. Hygiene Protocols**

- ❖ Hand hygiene, either handwashing or alcohol-based hand sanitizers must be used at the beginning and end of all activities.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Supply employees at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
- ❖ Post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees of the hygiene and safety protocols.

## **III. Staffing and Operations**

- ❖ Operators must ensure that on-site guest and staff density is maintained to allow for social distancing.
- ❖ Businesses shall establish traffic patterns and limit capacity to maintain social distancing for restrooms and facilities.
- ❖ Outfitting area shall have established traffic flow ensuring one group unit at a time.
- ❖ Staff member(s) shall explain and demonstrate how guests should fit their own PFD and helmet (if required) and explain how to assist a family member in helping one another.
- ❖ If a guest needs a staff member to assist with gear, the staff member will physically assist while wearing a mask and optional eye protection.
- ❖ Transportation can be utilized by more than one reservation group provided that capacity is limited to no more than 50% of vehicle capacity, distance is maintained between groups such as leaving an unoccupied row/seats between groups and customers, drivers and staff must wear face coverings at all times while in the vehicle. Windows should be opened when feasible to increase ventilation.
- ❖ Guests are encouraged to “arrive, paddle and leave” - no congregating or loitering before or after the activity.
- ❖ 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 (name and phone number or name and email address) who comes in contact with site to enable contact tracing, including customers. It is recommended that at least one member per household/car is logged to assist with contact tracing.
- ❖ Employees must stay home if feeling ill.



- ❖ Workers who test positive for COVID-19 must disclose to the workplace employer for purposes of cleaning / disinfecting and contact tracing. If the employer is notified of a positive case at the workplace, the employer shall notify the local Board of Health (LBOH) in the city or town where the workplace is located and assist the LBOH as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be recommended consistent with guidance and / or at the request of the LBOH.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Post notice to employees, workers, and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in government guidelines.

#### **IV. Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- ❖ Require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms.
- ❖ Conduct regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, handrails, door handles, and restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and sanitized following the [\*EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices\*](#)
- ❖ All shared equipment and gear (Personal Flotation Devices, helmets, etc.), including vehicles as well as rafts, kayaks, SUP's and paddles must be cleaned and disinfected between trips.
- ❖ 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.