



MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING BUSINESSES – Phase III, Step 2

Effective on March 1, 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. 65](#) to issue workplace safety standards for operators of and participants in outdoor recreational activities, the following guidelines apply to Recreational Boating Businesses and are effective on March 1, 2021. In Phase III, Step 2, Recreational Boating Businesses 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 III of the Commonwealth’s reopening. Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with [COVID-19 Order No. 65](#). Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase III, 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/>

LIMITATIONS ON OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

In Phase III, Step 2, recreational boating facilities, including rowing and sailing facilities, yacht clubs, boat clubs, and boat rentals may continue to operate subject to the limitations set forth below.

All recreational boating businesses must ensure compliance with any other applicable industry-specific standards that applies to a relevant aspect of their facility or venue including but not limited to:

- [Restaurant Standard](#) for those businesses with on-site dining, concession, and other food services;
- [Retail Standard](#) for those businesses offering on-site retail and other similar services;
- [Museum and Cultural and Historical Facilities and Guided Tours Standard](#) for those businesses that offer guided tours or walking tours;
- Any other sector-specific and recommended best practices in the [Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplace](#).

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

I. Social Distancing



- ❖ 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
- ❖ Docks are to be used to facilitate boating access only. On-dock gatherings are prohibited under any circumstances.
- ❖ Common areas such as gazebos where people are likely to congregate should remain closed for Phase III, Step 2 if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- ❖ Picnic areas and other common gathering areas should be closed if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- ❖ Rafting-up or tying-up of boats is limited to no more than 3 vessels.
- ❖ Organized and in person events, such as fishing derbies and tournaments or organized sailing event/regattas must comply with the tournament requirements in [Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities](#).
- ❖ Virtual/remote tournament/derbies may continue to proceed in Phase III as follows:
 - Tournament/Derby organizer(s) formulates a virtual plan for fish measuring and price allocation (includes online registration, catch entries, and awards).
 - Weigh ins conducted virtually or if in-person, then outdoors and maintaining social distancing and group size limits.
 - All participants must provide their own gear.
 - Shore anglers must adhere to all social distancing guidelines. The use of multiple water bodies to appropriately distance individuals is strongly encouraged.
 - All events must comply with any additional local restrictions.
- ❖ Fuel dock operators shall keep vessels spaced on the fuel dock at least 6 feet apart.
- ❖ Lunch and break times for staff shall be staggered, regulating maximum number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing during any meeting.
- ❖ Minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., elevators, control rooms, on-shore vehicles) by more than one individual at a time; all employees and customers in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings.
- ❖ For launch boats, the captain, staff and patrons must keep at least 6 feet apart and wear face coverings. If social distancing cannot be accomplished in a single trip, then separate trips must occur to adhere to the 6 feet social distancing requirement. If possible and practical, install Plexiglass shield between driver and passengers.
- ❖ For dinghy docks, all dinghies must wait for dinghy dock to be clear of any and all persons before approaching.
- ❖ Yacht club/boat club staff should not assist boaters with launch/retrieval or boat readiness except as necessary for ADA compliance. Staff should minimize interactions with boaters.
- ❖ Safety boats at rowing and boating facilities, boat ramps and canoe launches shall be operated by only one person, unless six-foot social distancing can be maintained by a crew of more than one.
- ❖ Sailing and rowing programs and lessons may be operated provided that organizers follow EEA's [Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities](#) guidance.
- ❖ Remote and credit-card transactions are encouraged.



II. Hygiene Protocols

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Employees should wear gloves as appropriate and when touching shared equipment.
- ❖ Paperwork should be handled electronically to the maximum extent possible.
- ❖ Employers must supply employees at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes) to sanitize shared equipment and touch surfaces.
- ❖ Post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees of the hygiene and safety protocols, including regular hand washing.
- ❖ Require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms.

III. Staffing and Operations

- ❖ Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission.
- ❖ Businesses that offer food service, must comply with all food service and [restaurant guidance](#).
- ❖ Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility if possible.
- ❖ Operators must log visitors with appropriate contact information and make that information available upon request by state officials, LBOHs or their authorized agents.
- ❖ Employees must stay home if feeling ill.
- ❖ Require workers who test positive for COVID-19 to 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.
- ❖ Employers must post notice to employees, workers, and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in CDC and DPH guidelines.
- ❖ All out-of-state visitors coming into Massachusetts must be informed of and follow the Massachusetts travel order.

IV. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ❖ Employers are required to 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 in accordance with the [EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices](#).

- ❖ Pump-out stations should be sanitized after each use. Vessel pump out port areas should be sanitized after the pump out.
- ❖ Boat rental facilities, boat clubs, community-based rowing and sailing facility operators and other operators who offer shared equipment should disinfect all watercraft, shells, safety boats and equipment after each use.
- ❖ Employers should keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.
- ❖ Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms).
- ❖ In event of a positive case, employers must shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance.