



MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING BUSINESSES – Phase IV, Step 1

Updated on May 10, 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 Recreational Boating Businesses.

This document provides guidance for how to implement general workplace safety standards and other public health guidance (“COVID-19 measures”). 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, 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

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;
- [Indoor and Outdoor Events](#) for those businesses that offer on-site events such as weddings or parties.
- [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;
- [Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses and Other Entities Providing Youth and Adult Amateur Sports Activities](#) for any organized and in person competition, such as fishing derbies and tournaments, organized sailing event/regattas or boating programs and lessons.
- 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

- ❖ All workers and customers are required to wear face coverings while indoors and shall follow any other sector or activity-specific guidance on facial coverings and social distancing protocols while outdoors. Face coverings are required outdoors when distance cannot be maintained.
- ❖ For launch boats, capacity is limited to 50% of vessel capacity.



- ❖ For dinghy docks, all dinghies must wait for sufficient space to maintain social distancing on the dock before approaching.
- ❖ Safety boats at rowing and boating facilities, boat ramps, and canoe launches shall be operated by the minimum number of people necessary to perform safety functions. Safety boats are exempt from social distancing requirements in the event of an emergency or rescue.

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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Operators must log visitors with appropriate contact information and make that information available upon request by state officials, LBOHs or their authorized agents.
- ❖ 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.

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.
- ❖ 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 high touch equipment such as paddles, oar handles, and personal flotation devices after each use.
Employers should keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.