MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR ZOOLOGICAL PARKS, OUTDOOR WILDLIFE RESERVES, NATURE CENTERS, and BOTANICAL GARDENS – Phase IV, Step 1

Effective on 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 Zoological Parks, Outdoor Wildlife Reserves, Nature Centers, and Botanical Gardens as part of Phase IV, Step 1 of the Commonwealth's reopening and is effective on March 22, 2021.

In Phase IV, Step 1, Zoological Parks, Outdoor Wildlife Reserves, Nature Centers, and Botanical Gardens may operate with an admission capacity of up to 50% of overall outdoor capacity, subject to the limitations below. Indoor buildings and exhibits are permitted to open provided that admission is capped at no more than 50% of indoor capacity.

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/

LIMITATIONS ON OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

Zoological parks, outdoor wildlife reserves, nature centers, and botanical gardens may operate in Phase IV, Step 1 with occupancy limits specific to outdoor and indoor areas. Outdoor areas and exhibits may operate at up to 50% occupancy of the overall outdoor capacity, and indoor exhibits and facilities may open with a limit of 50% of total indoor capacity.

Furthermore, all zoological parks, outdoor wildlife reserves, nature centers, and botanical gardens 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:

- *Safety Standards for Theaters and Performance Venues* and *Indoor and Outdoor Event Standard* for those businesses that can accommodate private events or performances as part of their indoor or outdoor operations;
- *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 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
- Facilities shall have controlled admissions via timed ticketing or other system for monitoring visitor capacity to reduce crowding and ensure compliance with permitted capacity for outdoor and indoor areas. Guests leaving sites should be counted by staff to ensure capacity compliance. Where possible, operators shall define a separate location for entrance and exiting locations.
- Visitors and employees must abide by social distancing protocols of at least six feet between individuals. Visitors from the same household are not required to social distance from each other.
- Pathways should be one-way wherever possible. Where applicable, physical barriers should be used to guide guests in redesigned one-way pathway flow and clear markers should be used to delineate appropriate safe social distancing spacing.
- Visitors shall abide by social distancing standards for bathroom lines and follow any established visual guidelines for maintaining a 6-foot distance in all restroom facilities.
- Stagger employee lunch and break times, 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 by more than one individual at a time; all employees in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings.
- Remote and credit-card transactions are encouraged.
- Limit non-essential personnel on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility, if possible.

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.

- Supply employees at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes).
- Require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms.
- Allow water fountains to be used as refill stations only, provided that social distancing can be maintained. Customers and workers should bring their own water bottles or purchase from the business.
- Post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees and visitors of hygiene and safety protocols.

III. Staffing and Operations

- Facilities that have outdoor playground/climbing structures, pools and spray decks should follow the guidance for such activities, including EEA's *Safety Standards for Public and Semi-Public Swimming Pools* and *Safety Standards for Playgrounds, Spray Decks and Outdoor Fitness Areas*.
- Interactive exhibits (i.e. touch and feel exhibits, play areas) should be closed or be operational with 6 feet of distancing marked and modified with frequent cleaning and disinfection. Hand hygiene station (soap and water of alcohol-based hand sanitizer) should be accessible to promote safe use.
- Where applicable, parking limitations should be applied to support capacity management.
- All on-site operations and businesses must cooperate with state health officials and local boards of health ("LBOH") and their authorized agents. Operators must maintain logs of all visitors with appropriate contact information and make that information available upon request by state officials, LBOHs or their authorized agents.
- Operators must use signage, social media and other means of distributing information for all employees and visitors of the need for social distancing, frequent hand hygiene/washing, facial coverings and limited activities and facilities.
- 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.
- 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

- Conduct regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, handrails, and restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and sanitized following the *EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices*.

- In event of a positive case, shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance.
- Keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.