According to the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association: [http://crpa.com](http://crpa.com)

“Parks and recreation are resources and services provided for the purposes of leisure, entertainment, and recreational pursuits. Resources may be public spaces and facilities like parks, nature preserves, open space areas, greenways, trails, and built structures for sport, recreation, or arts programs. Examples of services include recreation activity programs, athletic leagues, special events, arts programs, and environmental education programs.”

The National Recreation and Parks Association ([nrpa.org](http://nrpa.org)) the parks and recreation programs “foster change through collaborative programs and policies that reach a vast population to:

✓ Help reduce obesity and incidence of chronic disease by providing opportunities to increase rigorous physical activity in a variety of forms;
✓ Provide a connection to nature which studies demonstrate relieves stress levels, tightens interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health;
✓ Aid in reducing hunger in America and increasing access to nutritious food options; and
✓ Foster overall wellness and healthful habits, such as becoming tobacco-free and engaging in enrichment opportunities that add balance to life.

✓ Parks, beaches and trails revealed themselves as the essential civic infrastructure

• Free Summer Meals for Kids - An End Hunger Connecticut Program
• Summer Reading
• Summer Camp Program
• Sports, Fitness, Performing Arts, IT, Music and more
• Senior Programs
• Youth Employment and Seasonal Employment
• Community Events

• Municipalities: General Provisions - Chapter 97 - Sec. 7-148, Scope Of Municipal Powers.
  ✓ (4) Public services. (C) Provide for entertainment, amusements, concerts, celebrations and cultural activities, including the direct or indirect purchase, ownership and operation of the assets of one or more sports franchises;
  • Sec. 7-127d. Neighborhood youth center grant program.
  • Sec. 10-203a. Guidelines re physical health needs of students.
  • Sec. 10-14u. Intensive reading instruction program for students in kindergarten to grade three. Intensive reading intervention strategy. Supplemental reading instruction. Reading remediation plan. Intensive summer school reading instruction program.
  • Sec. 10-215h. Child nutrition outreach program.
  • Sec. 10-226h. Programs and methods to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation.
  • Sec. 10-265f. Early reading success grant program.
  • Sec. 22a-40. Permitted operations and uses. (a) The following operations and uses shall be permitted in wetlands and watercourses, as of right: (2) Outdoor recreation including play and sporting areas, golf courses, field trials, nature study, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, skin diving, camping, boating, water skiing, trapping, hunting, fishing and shellfishing where otherwise legally permitted and regulated
  • Sec. 23-8. Open spaces for recreation.
  • Sec. 23-10b. Outdoor recreation-related services.
  • Sec. 31-23. Employment of minors prohibited in certain occupations. Exceptions. (2) a summer work-recreation program sponsored by a town, city or borough or by a human resources development agency which has been approved by the Labor Commissioner.
Executive Orders

7-1, modified by EO 7D and further modified by EO 7N - Restricts all social and recreational gatherings to no more than five people: The order modifies the governor's earlier executive order placing limits on the amount of people who can participate in social and recreational gatherings and reduces that number to no more than five people, through at least April 30, 2020 unless otherwise modified. This order includes, but is not limited to, community, civic, leisure, or sporting events; parades; concerns; festivals; plays or live performances; conventions and similar activities; except that religious, spiritual, or worship gatherings will remain subject only to the prohibition of 50 persons or more. This does not apply to government operations, private workplaces, retail establishments, or other activities that are not social or recreational gatherings.

Executive Order 7N Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7N.pdf

7H-1 - Restrictions on workplaces for non-essential business: The order directs all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities in Connecticut to prohibit all in-person functions if they are able to, effective Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. The governor is encouraging all businesses to employ, to the maximum extent possible, any telecommuting or work-from-home procedures that they can safely implement. The governor’s order excludes any essential business or entity providing essential services or functions, such as healthcare, food service, law enforcement, and similar critical services.

Executive Order 7H Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7H.pdf

7L-3 - Suspends restrictions on the re-employment of retired municipal employees: To enable municipalities to meet critical staffing needs caused by COVID-19 with skilled and experienced employees who require little to no additional training, the order modifies state statutes to allow certain retired employees who are in the municipal retirement system to work without any hourly or durational limitation while also continuing to receive retirement allowances. Sec. 7-438(b).

Continuation of retirement allowance upon other public employment. Participation in state retirement system. Reemployment by participating municipality.

Executive Order 7L Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7L.pdf

7Q-1 - (amended by EO 7VV) Requirement of limited group sizes in childcare: The order requires all childcare facilities to limit group sizes to no more than 10 children in one space. Any facility caring for more than 30 children must obtain approval from the Office of Early Childhood and demonstrate sufficient separation of groups within the facility. This applies to all childcare facilities, including those that are exempt from licensing requirements. - Sec. 19a-79. (Formerly Sec. 19-43d). Regulations. Exemptions. Waivers

7Q-2 - (amended by EO 7BBB-5) Enhancement of health procedures for all operating childcare programs: The order requires all children and childcare staff to be checked at the entrance of childcare facilities for any observable illness, including cough or respiratory distress, and to confirm temperature below 100 degrees Fahrenheit. All staff must adhere to increased hand washing and health practices. Enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices shall be implemented. This applies to all childcare facilities, including those that are exempt from licensing requirements. - Sec. 19a-79. (Formerly Sec. 19-43d). Regulations. Exemptions. Waivers.

Executive Order 7Q Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7Q.pdf

7R-4 - Restrictions on entrance to state parks, forests, and other lands: In light of significant visitors to certain state parks in recent days, the order gives the commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection the authorization to ban visitors from entering state parks and other lands under the agency’s control after the property has reached a capacity adequate to supporting implementation of social distancing policies to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Executive Order 7R Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7R.pdf

7T-4 - Flexibility to maintain adequate child care infrastructure: Provides the commissioner of Early Childhood with the authority to implement a financial package to compensate emergency child care and stabilize the child care field to support providers through the emergency response. - Sec. 10-16n through 10-16u, 10-266p, 10-266q, 10-262u, 10-505, 10-506, 10-509, 17a-749, 17b-749a, 17b-749c, 17b-749i, and 17b-749j; and Sections 17b-749-0l through 17b-749-23 of the
Parks and Recreation - updated 6/26/20 - Agency Additions and EO 7BBB-5

Executive Orders

7V-1 - Safe workplaces in essential businesses: Requires the Department of Economic and Community Development to work in consultation with the Department of Public Health on the development of legally binding statewide rules prescribing additional protective measures that every workplace in Connecticut deemed essential – and any other business or nonprofit allowed to remain open – must follow. Such rules will be mandatory throughout the state.

- Immediately upon Governor Lamont’s signing of this executive order, the Department of Economic and Community Development published the Safe Workplaces Rules for Essential Employers on its website, outlining guidance for these businesses. These rules go into effect immediately.

- Nothing in such rules or this order shall supersede Executive Order No. 7S, Section 1, or the “Safe Stores” rules.

✓ Go to DECD’s website for the most recent guidance: https://portal.ct.gov/DECD/Content/Coronavirus-Business-Recovery/Safe-Workplace-Rules-for-Essential-Employers

Executive Order 7V Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7V.pdf

7X-3 - Extension of closures, distancing, and safety measures through May 20, 2020: Extends the date for all previously enacted closures, distancing, and safety measures until at least May 20. This includes previously enacted limits on restaurant, bar, and private club operations; closure of on-site operations at off-track betting facilities; closure of operations at gyms, sports, fitness, and recreation facilities and movie theaters; closure of large shopping malls; closure of places of public amusement; safety and distancing measures for workplaces and non-essential businesses, prohibition on social and recreational gatherings of more than five people; and restrictions on retail operations.

Executive Order 7X Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7X.pdf

7BB-1 - Cloth face coverings or higher level of protection required in public wherever close contact is unavoidable - Each employee shall be required to wear a mask or other cloth material that covers his or her mouth and nose at all times while in the workplace. Towns shall issue such masks or cloth face coverings to their employees. In the event a town is unable to provide masks or cloth face coverings to employees because of shortages or supply chain difficulties, towns must provide the materials and CDC tutorial about how to create a cloth face covering, or compensate employees for the reasonable and necessary costs employees expend on such materials to make their own masks or cloth face coverings.

- Nothing in these rules shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition.

- If a person declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition as described above, such person shall not be required to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition.

Executive Order 7BB Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7BB.pdf

7PP-1 - Phase 1 Business Reopening. To provide for a comprehensive plan for safe resumption of limited social, recreational, athletic, and economic activity, pursuant to rules issued by the Department of Economic and Community Development for each of various business sectors (individually and collectively, the “Sector Rules”), which Sector Rules shall constitute legally binding guidance, the following Executive Orders are repealed or amended effective at 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, as provided herein:

b. Reopening of Offices. Executive Order No. 7H, Section 1 is extended through June 20, 2020, with the exception that offices shall be permitted to reopen pursuant to the Sector Rules for Offices, as amended from time to time. The provisions of Executive Order No. 7J, Section 1, allowing certain on-site staffing shall be superseded as applied to offices by the Sector Rules for Offices.
Executive Orders

3. **Extension of Prohibition on Large Gatherings to June 20, 2020.** Executive Order Nos. 7D, Section 1, and 7N, Section 1, prohibiting large gatherings, are extended through June 20, 2020, and for the removal of all doubt, the prohibition on gatherings of more than five (5) people shall apply to any group seated together at any of the establishments in subsection 1(a) of this order, and any other group activity permitted by the Sector Rules for any

4. **Reopening of Outdoor Recreation and Other Businesses.** Executive Order Nos. 7H, Section 1, and 7F, Section 2, are further amended to permit the operation of any businesses covered by the Sector Rules for General Business, as amended from time to time. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall issue, not later than 10 a.m. on May 19, 2020, a list of business types permitted to reopen pursuant to such Sector Rules, which list may be amended from time to time and shall be incorporated in the Sector Rules. The remaining provisions of Executive Order 7F, Section 2, except for those referred to in subsection 1(d) of this order, are extended through June 20, 2020.

5. **Additions to Businesses Permitted to Reopen Pursuant to Sector Rules.** The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development may add, through amendments to any of the Sector Rules and without further Executive Order, businesses which may operate pursuant to such Sector Rules, and the effective date at which such additional businesses shall be permitted to reopen. For any additional business or business type permitted to operate through the Sector Rules, any prohibition on their operation contained in an Executive Order shall expire on the effective date of reopening.

6. **Interaction Between Essential Business Guidance, Safe Workplace Rules and Sector Rules.** The Safe Workplace Rules for Essential Employers issued by DECD pursuant to Executive Order No. 7V, Section 1, shall remain in effect for all essential businesses not otherwise subject to the Sector Rules. The Sector Rules, as amended from time to time, shall apply to any business permitted to open pursuant to this order, and to any additional business allowed to open pursuant to amendments to the Sector Rules.

2. **Enforcement of Sector Rules Governing the Reopening of Businesses.** Section 19-13-B1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to include in the definition of public nuisance a violation of the Sector Rules described in Section 1 of this order. The provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and any local rules, codes or ordinances pertaining to such public nuisances are, to the extent necessary, modified to permit and govern the investigation and enforcement of violations of the Sector Rules as public nuisances as follows:

   a. **Local Health Director’s and District Health Director’s Authority to Enforce Sector Rules.** For purposes of this order, a “Public Health Facility” shall include hair salons, barbershops, beauty shops, nail salons, spas, tattoo or piercing establishments, restaurants, eating establishments, private clubs, or any locations licensed for on-premise consumption of alcohol, that are allowed to reopen pursuant to the Sector Rules, as amended from time to time. Section 19a-206 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 19-13-B2(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to authorize a local or district health director to order the closure of Public Health Facilities until such time as the local or district health director determines that the Public Health Facility has abated the nuisance by coming into compliance with the Sector Rules. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, alter, modify or suspend any other existing penalties or enforcement powers that otherwise apply to violations of orders issued pursuant to a civil preparedness or public health emergency.

   b. **Municipal Chief Executive Officer’s Authority to Enforce Sector Rules.** Pursuant to Section 19a-2a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health shall designate to municipal employees or officials selected by the municipal chief executive officer, (“Municipal Designee") authority over public nuisances arising from violations of the Sector Rules by any business or entity that is not a Public Health Facility. A municipal chief executive shall not select a local health director, district health director, or the staff of a local or district health director as their Municipal Designee. Section 19a-206 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Section 19-13-B2(a) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are modified to authorize the Municipal Designee to order the closure of any business other than a Public Health Facility in violation of the Sector Rules until such time as the Municipal Designee determines that the such business has abated the nuisance by coming into compliance with the Sector Rules. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, alter, modify or suspend any other existing penalties that otherwise apply to violations of orders issued pursuant to a civil preparedness or public health emergency.
6. **Limitation on the Operation of Day Camps.** To limit the spread of COVID-19 and promote and secure the health and safety of children and staff in day camps, all operations of day camps, as defined by Section 19a-420 (3) of the Connecticut General Statutes, which were not operating as of May 5, 2020 shall not begin operations until June 22, 2020. This order shall apply to all day camps without regard to what entity operates the day camp or whether the day camp is exempt from licensing requirements pursuant to Section 19a-420 of the Connecticut General Statutes, including camps operated by municipal agencies.

7. **Enhanced Health Procedures for All Day Camps.** All day camps, as defined by Section 19a-420 (3) of the Connecticut General Statutes, and camp day programs that are exempt from licensing requirements pursuant to Section 19a-420 without regard to what entity operates the day camp shall comply with the limitations on child group sizes and enhanced health procedure requirements placed on child care programs by Executive Order No. 7Q, and orders of the Commissioner of Early Childhood related to additional health and sanitation practices. The Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with public health experts and the Reopen Connecticut Subcommittee on Education, shall issue guidance on the safe operation of day camps, and any implementing order she deems necessary consistent with this order.

8. **Cancellation of Resident Camp Operations.** To limit the spread of COVID-19 and secure the health and safety of children and staff of resident camps, all operations of resident camps, as defined by Section 19a-420 (2) of the Connecticut General Statutes are prohibited.

9. **Limitation on the Operation of Summer Educational Programs Operated by Local or Regional Boards of Education.** To limit the spread of COVID-19 and promote and secure the health and safety of children and staff in summer school (summer educational programs), all summer school programs operated by local or regional boards of education shall not begin operations until July 6, 2020. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with public health experts and the Reopen Connecticut Subcommittee on PreK-12 Education, shall issue guidance on the limited operation of summer school programs that are permitted to engage in-person classes after that date, and may issue any implementing order he deems necessary consistent with this order and with his associated guidance document. Any private schools and other non-public schools that operate summer school programs and are not otherwise covered under sections 6 through 10 of this order are encouraged to follow the same schedule and guidance.

Executive Order Link for 7PP: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7PP.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7PP.pdf)

7QQ-6 - **Clarification that Commissioner Orders Issued Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders Are Not Regulations Subject to the UAPA.** Section 4-166(16) of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to clarify that the definition of a regulation does not include any amendment or repeal of an existing regulation and any directive, rule, guidance, or order issued by a Commissioner or Department Head pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order during the existing civil preparedness and public health emergency and any renewal or extension thereof. Notwithstanding Sections 4-166 to 189, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, any Commissioner or Department Head, as permitted or directed by any such Governor's executive order, may modify or suspend any regulatory requirements adopted by the Commissioner or Department Head that they deem necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the public health. This section applies to all orders that have been issued since the declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies on March 10, 2020 and for the duration of the public health and civil preparedness emergency, including any period of renewal of such emergency declaration.

Executive order 7QQ Link: [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7QQ.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7QQ.pdf)

7TT-2 - **Amended Prohibitions on Large Gatherings.** Effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 1, 2020, **Executive Order Nos. 7D, Section 1 and 7N, Section 1, as extended by Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 3, are amended as follows:**

a. Except as otherwise prohibited or otherwise addressed by law, including other executive orders or agency orders or rules issued pursuant thereto, indoor social and recreational gatherings as described in Executive Order No. 7D, Section 1 are permitted for up to and including ten (10) people. Except as otherwise prohibited or otherwise addressed by law, including other Executive Orders or agency orders or rules issued pursuant thereto, outdoor gatherings as described in
Executive Orders

Executive Order No. 7D, Section 1 are permitted for up to and including 25 people, provided that any such large outdoor public gatherings shall comply with the following restrictions and all other relevant and applicable executive orders governing conduct in public places:

i. No contact sports or sports that include shared handling of objects such as balls or frisbees are allowed.

ii. Attendees shall remain six feet apart, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, and household members, and, except when dining, masks shall be worn when within six feet of those not in the same household.

iii. If the event is an organized gathering, the organizer shall demarcate six feet of spacing in the area of the gathering to demonstrate appropriate spacing for social distancing.

b. Sector Rules and Essential Business guidance imposing a 5-person limit on outdoor activities are superseded by this order and shall be updated accordingly, but all other restrictions in Sector Rules, Essential Business guidance, or any other executive order or agency order, as amended from time to time, shall remain in effect.

c. Effective immediately, the 49-person limit on religious, spiritual and worship gatherings is raised for indoor gatherings to 25% of capacity of the indoor space or a maximum of 100 people, whichever is smaller, and to 150 people for outdoor gatherings, provided in each case that appropriate safety and social distancing measures shall be employed. For any such gathering where participants remain in vehicles with windows closed and at least six (6) feet of space between vehicles, there shall no numerical attendance limit, provided all other laws are complied with.

Executive Order 7TT Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7TT.pdf

7VV - Amended Limitation on Program Sizes in Child Care. Executive Order No. 7Q, Section 1, dated March 30, 2020, is amended to provide that child care facilities may provide care for up to fifty (50) children without obtaining approval from the Commissioner of Early Childhood. Any facility caring for more than fifty (50) children in one facility must obtain approval from the Commissioner of Early Childhood and demonstrate sufficient separation of groups of children within the facility.

Executive Order 7VV Link: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7VV.pdf

7ZZ-3 - Application of Enforcement Authority to DECD Rules for Gatherings and Venues. Section 19-13-B1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is modified to include in the definition of public nuisance a violation of the Rules for Gatherings and Venues described in Section 2 of this order. The provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, and any local rules, codes or ordinances pertaining to such public nuisances are, to the extent necessary, modified to permit and govern the investigation and enforcement of violations of the Rules for Gatherings and Venues as public nuisances by Municipal Designees in the same manner as provided for Sector Rules by Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 2.b. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit, alter, modify or suspend any other existing penalties that otherwise apply to violations of orders issued pursuant to a civil preparedness or public health emergency.

Executive Order Link 7ZZ - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7ZZ.pdf

7BBB-5 - Authority to Modify Enhanced Health Procedures in Child Care and Day Camps. The Commissioner of Early Childhood, in consultation with the Commissioner of Public Health, may modify or amend the enhanced health procedures set forth in Executive Order No. 7Q, Section 2 and Executive Order No. 7PP, Section 7 to provide safe and adequate child care that protects children, staff and their families from COVID-19 transmission while responding to the current public health data and recommendations.

Executive Order Link 7BBB - https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/Executive-Orders/Lamont-Executive-Orders/Executive-Order-No-7BBB.pdf
### Parks and Recreation - updated 6/26/20 - Agency Additions and EO 7BBB-5

#### Continuity Issues

- **Gathering of People** - Temporary suspension of large public gatherings including concerts and sports events, cancellation of recreational programs and activities such as youth league sports, and temporary closings of community centers, fitness rooms and gyms. In addition, other activities such as after-school programs, evening teen programs, drop-in hours at community centers, and senior activities may be suspended.

- **Summer Camps** - The ability to open and access to school facilities (buildings) if schools are canceled through Fall is a primary concern that BOE or Superintendent may withhold access to buildings which usually house these municipal summer camps.

- **Childcare** - Recreation departments/programs are one of the leading providers of affordable childcare across the state. The closure or limitation on summer camp and related programs would result in a major impact to our residents who depend on this essential service. This will be further exacerbated as the economy opens and persons currently unemployed, furloughed or working from home move back to the workplace - needing quality childcare - especially while school is out.

- **Breakfast and Lunch Programs** - Coupled with childcare services, recreation departments are a leading provider of breakfast and lunch programs during the summer months, especially in distressed municipalities.

- **Employment** - Municipal park and recreation departments are one of the largest employers of seasonal summer workers in the state - adding significantly to the economic stability of Connecticut. They employ high school, college, and school personnel – both teachers and paraprofessionals. If camps are not allowed to open and if access to these municipal facilities is not allowed, full time recreation professionals who oversee these camps will be in jeopardy of losing their jobs or being furloughed, furthering the negative economic impact to the state. Allowing municipal parks and recreation departments to continue to open camps and use school facilities, as they always have, will have an economic benefit to the state as well.

- **Safety** -
  - Ability to maintain current year-round full-time staffing levels with little income to special revenue accounts
  - If summer camps are not able to move forward seasonal employees will not be hired leaving, high school, college, and school personnel (many are employed by our departments over summer) with loss of income
  - Safety reopening community centers and other recreation facilities (i.e. hockey rinks, aquatic facilities, etc.)
  - Impact on opening outdoor pools, lakefront, and beach areas
  - Ability to maintain park & schools grounds due to reduction of maintenance staff

#### State Agency Guidance


- **Department Of Public Health Private Family Campground Rules And Recommendations May 19, 2020**

  **Rules:**

  In addition to the DECD's Sector Rules for General Business, including the requirement that private family campgrounds limit maximum occupancy to 50% of usual occupancy, DPH requires that private family campgrounds comply with the following rules:

  1. Public Areas. All public areas, other than public bathrooms and showers, are required to remain closed. With respect to public pools, while they are required to remain closed, DPH requires that public pool owners implement their normally-scheduled pool start-up procedure as they would any other year, unless the pool is drained and the pool owner does not yet want to fill it with water. The owner of the public pool should continue running it 24/7 and ensure that the required minimum disinfection levels in the pool are maintained at all times to prevent the pool from becoming a breeding ground for bacteria and mosquitoes.

  2. 20-Foot Separating Distance between Campsites. The private family campground is required to ensure that there is at least 20 feet between each campsite. This may require that every other campsite be closed in order to maintain at least a 20-foot separating distance between each campsite.
1. Failure to follow the Sector Rules and other orders may result in losing the ability to operate.

Recommendations:

DPH recommends that private family campgrounds comply with the following:

1. Remote Contact with Office Staff. It is recommended that any contact with the private family campground’s office be remote, if possible.

2. Staffing. It is recommended that the owner of a private family campground hire sufficient staff to assure adherence with Governor Lamont’s Executive Orders, including Executive Order 7N, which prohibits social and recreational gatherings of 6 or more people, and DECD’s guidance, including the Sector Rules for General Business. Compliance, and enforcement should be the responsibility of the owner of the private family campground.

3. Best Practices Plan. It is recommended that a private family campground prepare and implement a COVID-19 best practices plan. Such best practices plan should include:

   A. How the private family campground will ensure compliance by staff, campers and visitors with Governor Lamont’s executive orders, including Executive Order 7N, which prohibits social and recreational gatherings of 5 or more people, and DECD guidance;

   B. How the private family campground will address an outbreak of COVID-19 in such family campground; and

   C. The private family campground’s cleaning and disinfection protocols that incorporate the rules in the Sector Rules for General Business.

   If the private family campground prepares a best practices plan, it should make such plan available to any state or local official for inspection upon request.

4. Out-of-State Campers and Visitors. It is recommended that both individuals staying at the private family campgrounds and visitors to such campgrounds from out-of-state self-quarantine for 14 days.

   - DPH, May 19, 2020 - COVID-19 Guidance for Reopening Connecticut’s Recreational Areas and Activities

   **Guidance for Engaging in Outdoor Recreation:**

   ✓ Practice proper social distancing and wear a surgical-style mask, cloth mask, or other face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth at all times when close contact with other individuals is unavoidable.

   ✓ Do not engage in outdoor recreational activities with individuals outside of your household.

   ✓ Stay as close to home as possible. Do not travel long distances to parks or other recreation areas that may require additional stops along the way.

   ✓ Stay at least six feet away from other people at all times, if possible.

   ✓ Avoid recreational areas that are crowded.

   ✓ Continue to practice good personal hygiene while outdoors. Avoid touching surfaces in public, avoid touching your face, and cough and sneeze into your elbow.

   **Guidance for Reopening Public Pools**

   ✓ DPH recommends that all public pool areas, and in turn the public pools, remain closed at this time. DPH’s recommendation

   ✓ Owners of seasonal outdoor public pools are encouraged to implement their normally-scheduled annual pool start-up procedure in order to prevent stagnant water from breeding bacteria and other viruses and to ease start-up burdens that may be experienced by local health departments and contractors.

   ✓ Once a public pool’s start-up procedure is complete, the owner of the pool should continue running it 24/7. The owner should also ensure that the required minimum disinfection levels in the pool are maintained at all times.
### State Agency Guidance

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<td>Lifeguards and other personnel in the pool area should wear a surgical-style mask, cloth mask, or other face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth when they are entering, exiting, or moving around work or common areas where contact with others cannot be avoided: this includes first aid, lost child searches, assisting handicapped individuals, and any other close contact with visitors.</td>
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<td>Visitors, friends, and off duty lifeguards should not be within six feet of lifeguard stands. Operators should delineate an exclusion line using cones or lines</td>
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<td>Lifeguards should avoid sitting next to each other on lifeguard stands.</td>
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<td>- Lifeguards should maintain social distance between lifeguards while providing the same coverage and protection necessary to ensure public safety</td>
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<td>- When workers are isolated in a workstation alone (i.e. a lifeguard sitting in an elevated chair overseeing the swim area), face coverings are not necessary.</td>
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### Guidance on Beaches and Swimming Areas

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Many beaches and swimming areas are scheduled to open Memorial Day Weekend. In response to a request for information regarding COVID-19 and swimming, CDC informed the DPH that, at this time, it is not aware of cases of COVID-19 caused by the recreational use of either freshwater or saltwater for swimming.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Social distancing practices are recommended when frequenting a beach or swimming area, keeping a minimum distance of six feet between other beach patrons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Testing for COVID-19 in recreational waters at swimming areas is not recommended at this time. Routine testing to determine the safety of the recreation water that is routinely conducted throughout the swimming season is adequate for protecting public health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Lifeguards and other personnel in the swimming area should wear a surgical-style mask, cloth mask, or other face covering that completely covers the nose and mouth when they are entering, exiting, or moving around work or common areas where contact with others cannot be avoided: this includes first aid, lost child searches, assisting handicapped individuals, and any other close contact with visitors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Visitors, friends, and off duty lifeguards should not be within six feet of lifeguard stands. Operators should delineate an exclusion line using cones or lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Lifeguards should avoid sitting next to each other on lifeguard stands.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Lifeguards should maintain social distance between lifeguards while providing the same coverage and protection necessary to ensure public safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- When workers are isolated in a workstation alone (i.e. a lifeguard sitting in an elevated chair overseeing the swim area), face coverings are not necessary.</td>
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</table>

### Lifeguards (if applicable):

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<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The best way to protect all persons from the virus that causes COVID-19 is to practice primary prevention which means preventing person-to-person contact, eliminating the possibility for groups of six or more to form, and preventing exposure to respiratory droplets of ill persons. <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Lifeguards are not required to be on duty at public pools, however, pursuant to § 19-13-B33b of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, when no lifeguard service is in effect, public pools are required to post a warning sign in plain view, which is required to state &quot;Warning:–No Lifeguard on Duty&quot; with legible letters a minimum of 4 inches high. The warning is required to be accessible from all entry points into the pool area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Lifeguards on duty should routinely clean and disinfect their lifeguard chairs and equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Lifeguard equipment that is not assigned to an individual guard, including, but not limited to, the lifeguard chair, torp buoy, first aid kit, rescue board, surfboards, dingy, oars and flags must be disinfected after each use, between shift changes, and at the end of the day.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Face coverings should not be utilized when lifeguards are engaging in water rescue activities, as they may pose a danger</td>
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</table>
### Parks and Recreation - updated 6/26/20 - Agency Additions and EO 7BBB-5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Agency Guidance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Secondary lifeguards must have masks and gloves on and take over as soon as the rescuing lifeguards reach the shoreline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ Lifeguards should avoid mouth-to-mouth contact during lifesaving procedures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‣ Bag valve masks (BVM) are the only acceptable way of delivering rescue breaths.</td>
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<tr>
<td>‣ If BVM are not available for ventilation, compression-only CPR should be used.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Guidance on Public Restroom Maintenance at Beaches, Public Pools, and Parks

✓ CDC guidance states that, if possible, all parks and recreational areas should open and maintain their public restrooms, including having functional toilets, regular cleaning of facilities, and stocking public restrooms with soap and hand sanitizer.

✓ Visit the CDC website to learn more about specific guidance on maintaining public restrooms at recreational facilities: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/park-administrators.html)

✓ The decision to open a public restroom at a park or recreational facility shall be made at the local level on the overseeing entity’s/owner’s ability to adequately follow the CDC guidelines with consideration for size, frequency of use and location of the public restroom.

#### Special Considerations

✓ During this public health emergency, DPH recommends that everyone adhere to federal and state guidance regarding COVID-19, including CDC’s “social distancing” and “outdoor recreation” guidance, Governor Ned Lamont’s executive orders, and DECD’s guidance regarding “Stay Safe, Stay Home”.

✓ CDC guidance states that people 65 years and older, people who live in nursing homes or long-term care facilities, and people with underlying medical conditions are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and are guided to stay home when possible. The following webpage has additional information about high risk groups and the actions higher risk people can take to reduce their risk of getting sick: [http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html)


- Equestrian (subject to Dept. of Agriculture guidance)
- Mountain Biking
- Camping
- Boat Tours (subject to 5 passengers)
- Charter Fishing (subject to 5 passengers)
- Sport Fishing (subject to 5 passengers)
- Go Kart Race Tracks, practice only (bring your own, no rentals)
- Golf
- Driving Ranges
- Tennis
- 1:1 Training, outdoors maintain 6 feet
- Race Tracks (practice only, no spectators)
- Campgrounds (subject to DPH rules)
- Outdoor Shooting Range
- Kayaking, Sailing, Canoeing and Stand-up Paddleboarding
- Dirt Biking (practice only)
- Mini Golf
- Batting Cages
- Archery
- Rope Courses
- Ziplines
Parks and Recreation - updated 6/26/20 - Agency Additions and EO 7BBB-5

**State Agency Guidance**

DEEP Guidance

- **What's Open Outdoors** - [https://portal.ct.gov/whatsopenoutdoors](https://portal.ct.gov/whatsopenoutdoors)
- **Connecticut Fisheries Division COVID-19 Updates** - [https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/COVID-19-Updates-Fisheries-Division](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/COVID-19-Updates-Fisheries-Division)

**Suggested Best Practices**

**Staffing**

- Towns may consider either an inter-municipal agreement or mutual aide agreement with a neighboring community to either share staff or “piggyback” various town staffing with a community with more capacity. Before exercising this option, municipalities should consult with their bargaining units to meet any staffing challenges to ensure proper coordination in accordance with the terms of existing bargaining agreements and all applicable laws including but not limited to the Teachers Negotiations Act and the Municipal Employees Relation Act.

- Regional councils of government should be assembling rosters of qualified personnel who can fill in as independent contractors on an as-needed basis to fill vacancies or work loads of member towns
  - Avoids need for inter-town agreements
  - Independent contractors used to fill temporary need should be allowed through E.O. so as not to conflict with local collective bargaining agreements
  - COGs must engage and involve bargaining unit representatives to be part of any regional staffing.

- Towns with either staffing capacity issues or a temporary interruption in staffing due to COVID-19 could bridge such situations utilizing their regional council of governments (COGs). The nine regional COGs either have the staffing capacity or the ability to “staff up” to perform most town functions. COGs have the statutory authority (8-31b) to provide most any function a town may need. COGs already provide dozens of services otherwise performed individually by towns on a shared or regional basis.
  - Utilizing Executive Order 7L-3 municipalities are allowed to re-hire retired municipal employees - allowing communities third experienced staff.
  - Before exercising this option, municipalities should consult with their bargaining units to meet any staffing challenges to ensure proper coordination in accordance with the terms of existing bargaining agreements.

**Staff Safety**

- **Keep your park staff informed about COVID-19 and preventive actions.** When there is ongoing transmission of COVID-19 in the community where the park is located, consider implementing the following strategies: [CDC]
  - Provide staff with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and park policies on a regular basis.
  - **Remember** - Rank and file public employees are a resource that must be used when discussing, planning or implementing safety protocols and to assist in determining safe practices for public interactions. To not the people who will be staffing worksites is shortsighted, may compromise their safety and will only lead to future problems.
  - Communicate to park staff the importance of practicing healthy hygiene habits such as washing hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - If staff develop a fever, cough, or shortness of breath while at work, have them immediately put on a face mask (if available), isolate them, and have them return home from the park as soon as possible, and ask them to follow CDC-recommended steps for persons who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms.
  - If a staff member has a confirmed COVID-19 infection, inform other staff about their possible exposure to the virus, while maintaining confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act; see Public Health Recommendations for People in U.S. Communities Exposed to a Person with Known or Suspected COVID-19, other than Health Workers or other Critical Infrastructure Workers.
Recreation Capacity

Calculate, with the assistance your regional COG or the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System the carrying capacity for all recreational venues, evaluate risks and put in place the appropriate limits to ensure safety of visitors and workers.

*Adapted from Cannon Beach Oregon*

- Prior to reopening after extended closure, ensure all parks and facilities are ready to operate and that all equipment is in good condition after the extended closure, according to any applicable maintenance and operations manuals and standard operating procedures.
- Come prepared. Visitors may find reduced or limited restroom services as staff begin the process to reopen facilities at wildlife areas and water-access sites. You are advised to bring your own soap, water, hand sanitizer and toilet paper, as well as a mask or bandana to cover your nose and mouth. *(Washington State)*
- Prohibit parties from congregating in parking lots for periods longer than reasonable to retrieve/return gear and enter/exit vehicles.
- Reinforce the importance of maintaining at least six (6) feet of physical distance between parties (a group of 10 or fewer people) that arrived at the site together) on hiking trails, beaches and boat ramps through signage and education.
- Keep day-use areas that are prone to attracting crowds (including but not limited to playgrounds, picnic shelters, water parks and pools) and overnight use areas closed.
- Thoroughly clean restroom facilities at least twice daily and assure adequate sanitary supplies (soap, toilet paper, hand sanitizer) throughout the day. Restroom facilities that cannot be cleaned twice daily should be kept closed.
- Frequently clean and disinfect work areas, high-traffic areas, and commonly touched surfaces in both public and non-public areas of parks and facilities.
- Post clear signage listing COVID-19 symptoms, asking employees and visitors with symptoms to stay home and who to contact if they need assistance.
- Keep any common areas such as picnic areas, day-use shelters, and buildings open to the public arranged so there is at least six (6) feet of physical distance between parties (chairs, benches, tables). Post clear signage to reinforce physical distancing requirements between visitors of different parties.

To the extent possible, outdoor recreation agencies should:

- Consider closing alternating parking spots to facilitate at least six (6) feet of physical distance between parties.
- Consider opening loop trails in a one-way direction to minimize close contact between hikers. Designate one-way walking routes to attractions if feasible.
- Require, in accordance with Executive Order 7BB-1 that all employees and visitors to wear cloth face coverings.
- Encourage the public to visit parks and recreation areas close to home, avoid overnight trips and not travel outside their immediate area (beyond 50 miles from home) for recreation. Visitors should bring their own food and hygiene supplies, as well as take their trash with them when they leave.
- Encourage the public to recreate with their own household members rather than with those in their extended social circles.
- Encourage the public to recreate safely and avoid traveling to or recreating in areas where it is difficult to maintain at least six feet from others not in their party.
- Position staff to monitor physical distancing requirements, ensure groups are no larger than 10 people, and provide education and encouragement to visitors to support adherence.
- Provide hand washing stations or hand sanitizer in common areas such as picnic areas, day-use shelters, and buildings open to the public.
- Consider placing clear plastic or glass barriers in front of cashiers or visitor center counters, or in other places where maintaining six (6) feet of physical distance between employees and visitors is more difficult.
Suggested Best Practices

- Pack out what you pack in. Take any garbage with you, including disposable gloves and masks. *(Washington State)*
- Be kind and respectful to our rangers, park aides and other field staff. *(Washington State)*

Guidelines For Golfers And Courses *(Source: Mass Golf [https://www.massgolf.org/about/]*

- Security personnel can be delineated by each club (ex. A pro and the head starter) and will be present to enforce social distancing. There can be no other employees working at the recreational component of the golf operation.
- All staff must wear face coverings while on property.
- Course facilities including but not limited to the clubhouse, golf shop, restaurant, bag room and locker room must remain closed.
- No caddies allowed.
- No golf carts allowed.
- Push carts may be used. Players must either carry their own bag or use a push cart
- All golfers must maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times.
- Groups of players are restricted to no more than 4 players at one time.
- Members-only clubs can allow guests as determined by the security personnel on the golf course.
- Private clubs that allow non-members to make reservations can do so at their discretion.
- Maintenance personnel are permitted to work on the golf course.
- Tee Time Policy must be 15 minutes between groups.
- Golfers must stay in their car until 15 minutes before their tee time and must return to their car immediately following play.
- Online and remote payment options must be utilized.
- All golfers must use their own golf clubs. Sharing golf clubs or rental golf clubs is not allowed.
- Flagsticks should remain in the hole. Hole liners must be raised so picking a ball out of the hole doesn’t occur.
- Bunker rakes must be removed, and ball washers must be removed or covered.
- Practice putting green, driving range, and chipping areas must be closed.
- Facilities must have readily accessible hand sanitizer.

Boating *(adapted from Pam Beach County Florida Guidance)*

Capacities are based on the size of the boat:

- 25-foot or less: maximum 6 persons (4 adult passengers plus 2 children 17 & under)
- 26- to 36-foot: maximum 8 persons (6 adult passengers plus 2 children 17 & under)
- 37- to 60-foot: maximum 10 persons (8 adult passengers plus 2 children 17 & under)
- 60-foot and larger: maximum 10 passengers plus crew
- 60-foot and larger: maximum 10 passengers plus crew
- Beaching, landings, anchoring or mooring of vessels on sandbars, islands, and open shorelines will be prohibited.
- Fish cleaning/bait stations limited to one person at a time
- Single riders only on rented personal watercraft
- Recreational charter boats, drift fishing and dive boats, marinas, boat docks, boat ramps, and other launching venues will be allowed to operate in adherence to CDC and specific county guidelines
Parks and Recreation - updated 6/26/20 - Agency Additions and EO 7BBB-5

Resources

- Connecticut Parks and Recreation Association - http://crpa.com/resources/what-is-parks-and-recreation
- National Recreation and Parks Association - http://www.nrpa.org/
- Connecticut Parks and Recreation Association - http://crpa.com/resources/what-is-parks-and-recreation
- National Recreation and Parks Association - http://www.nrpa.org/
- Carrying-Capacity Of Recreational Settings - https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a7cbaf06957dadcd5d634ba/t/5c2a9b6cdd839676a1afdc55/1546294973041/166.pdf
Resources


The information contained in this document is not intended to provide legal advice and should be used only for guidance regarding various functions performed by municipalities. Individual questions regarding the applicability of Executive Orders should be directed to the Office of Policy and Management Intergovernmental Policy and Planning Division (IGPP) or the town’s legal representative.

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) is a 24-member agency of the State of Connecticut created in 1985 to study system issues between the state and local governments and to recommend solutions as appropriate. The membership is designed to represent the state legislative and executive branches, municipalities and other local interests, and the general public.

The role of ACIR, as contained in Section 2-79a of the Connecticut General Statutes, is to: (1) serve as a forum for consultation between state and local officials; (2) conduct research on intergovernmental issues; (3) encourage and coordinate studies of intergovernmental issues by universities and others; and (4) initiate policy development and make recommendations to all levels of government.

For Further Information, Please Contact:
Bruce Wittchen: phone (860) 418-6323 e-mail bruce.wittchen@ct.gov