



State of Connecticut  
Department of Developmental Services

DDS

Ned Lamont  
Governor

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner

Peter Mason  
Deputy Commissioner

**Date:** June 10, 2020

**RE:** Reopening of Camp Harkness

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This memo is to communicate the reopening plan for Camp Harkness. As this camp is specifically designated for persons with disabilities, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) took a cautious and deliberative approach to determine the plans for reopening the camp in the safest way possible.

With this in mind, DDS has made the decision to reopen Camp Harkness for park services utilizing a staggered, three-phased method. Each phase reflects Connecticut's statewide reopening process and considers guidance implemented by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for state run parks. The phases are as follows:

- **Phase 1:** *Effective June 12, 2020-* Camp Harkness will be open for walking, strolling and cycling only.
- **Phase 2:** *Effective June 20, 2020-* Camp Harkness will allow picnicking options.
- **Phase 3:** *Effective June 27, 2020-* Camp Harkness beach will be open and available for use.

Below this memo is a detailed description of each phase, along with a process for visitors arriving at the camp for each of these phases. DDS encourages those interested in visiting Camp Harkness to read the details associated with each phase.

As COVID-19 guidance changes rapidly, DDS reserves the right to delay the phased opening dates if necessary, to protect the health and safety of visitors.

This memo and the corresponding guidance for reopening will be posted on the [DDS website](#) under the [Camp Harkness webpage](#). For questions regarding this memo or updates on capacity during the reopening of Camp Harkness please call 860-443-7818. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jordan A. Scheff  
Commissioner  
Department of Developmental Services

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## Reopening of Camp Harkness- Phase 1

This document is to announce Phase 1 of reopening Camp Harkness. Beginning *June 12, 2020*, Camp Harkness will be open on a limited basis with the following restrictions in place:

- The park will be open from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Sunday.
- No more than 50 visitors will be permitted in the park at one time. Visitors may have no more than 5 guests (household members and/or support staff only) and will be required to check-in and out at the booth in front of the park.
  - To ensure that the limits on the number of visitors into the Camp has not been reached please call 860-443-7818
- At this time activities at the Camp will be limited to strolling (walking, running etc) and cycling only. Picnicking and contact sports will not be permitted at this time. The beach and playscape areas and water fountains will also remain closed. Please note that the Camp Harkness beach is not a public beach.
- If you or any of our guests are not feeling well or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home! COVID-19 symptoms include:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- All visitors will be required to practice proper social distancing; stay at least 6 feet from other people.
- Visitors are asked to bring face coverings and use them whenever they are in proximity to others. According to the [Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7BB](#), the public is required to wear face coverings in public wherever close contact is unavoidable, unless they have a health condition that prevents it. At Camp Harkness these areas include parking lots and when passing other visitors on a trail or path.

## Reopening of Camp Harkness- Phase 2

This document is to announce **Phase 2** of reopening Camp Harkness, beginning **June 20, 2020**. Phase 2 will include the following changes:

- The Camp will be open regular hours from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Sunday with extended limited operations from 5:00pm- 8:00pm each day for strolling, bicycling and exercise only.
- Visitors will be required to make a reservation prior to arrival. Reservations will be taken weekly Tuesday's through Friday for the following week, by calling 860-443-7818. Reservations can begin on June 16, 2020 for phase 2 opening on June 20, 2020.
  - Please prepared to give your pass number, the names of guests (limited to 5 per pass holder) and the time of your visit (ex. 10am-2pm).
  - You can make one reservation per call, per day, per passholder depending on availability.
  - Reservations are not needed for extended limited operations between 5pm-8pm for strolling bicycling and exercising.
- Upon arrival, visitors will be required to check-in and show their pass to the booth operator. Adult guests will be asked to show a photo I.D.
- Picnicking is permitted during regular operating hours (9am-4pm).
  - Picnic tables will be set at safe distances and will be limited to one table per passholder.
  - As there is a limited number of sheltered picnic tables we recommend visitors bringing their own sub shelters (i.e. umbrellas etc)
  - The dining hall is closed at this time.
  - There are a limited number of charcoal grills available for use. Please remember to bring your own charcoal.
  - The onsite gas grill is not available during this time.
  - There is no ice available at the Camp, so please remember to bring your own.
- Portable (handicapped accessible) toilets will be available and cleaned regularly.

The following guidelines will stay the same as they were in Phase 1:

- No more than 50 visitors will be permitted in the Camp at one time.
- The beach, playscape areas and water fountains will remain closed.
- If you or any of our guests are not feeling well or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home! COVID-19 symptoms include:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- All visitors will be required to practice proper social distancing; stay at least 6 feet from other people.

- Visitors are asked to bring face coverings and use them whenever they are in proximity to others. According to the [Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7BB](#), the public is required to wear face coverings in public wherever close contact is unavoidable, unless they have a health condition that prevents it. At Camp Harkness these areas include parking lots and when passing other visitors on a trail or path.

### Reopening of Camp Harkness- Phase 3

This document is to announce **Phase 3** of reopening Camp Harkness, beginning **June 27, 2020**. Phase 3 will include the following changes:

- The beach will be open and available for use.
  - Visitors are asked to observe and maintain 15' of space from other beachgoers (blanket-to-blanket).
  - Areas for each passholder group will be marked out.
  - Bring your own beach chairs, blankets, towels, life jackets, and umbrellas.
  - Swimming will only be permitted if a lifeguard is on duty.

The following guidelines will stay the same as they were in Phase 2:

- The Camp will be open regular hours from 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Sunday with extended limited operations from 5:00pm- 8:00pm each day for strolling, bicycling and exercise only.
- No more than 50 visitors will be permitted in the Camp at one time. Visitors will be required to make a reservation prior to arrival. Reservations will be taken weekly Tuesday's through Friday for the following week, by calling 860-443-7818.
  - Please prepared to give your pass number, the names of guests (limited to 5 per pass holder) and the time of your visit (ex. 10am-2pm).
  - You can make one reservation per call, per day, per passholder depending on availability.
  - Reservations are not needed for extended limited operations between 5pm-8pm for strolling bicycling and exercising.
- Upon arrival, visitors will be required to check-in and show their pass to the booth operator. Adult guests will be asked to show a photo I.D.
- Picnicking is permitted during regular operating hours (9am-4pm).
- Playscapes and water fountains will remain closed at this time.
- Portable (handicapped accessible) toilets will be available and cleaned regularly.
- If you or any of our guests are not feeling well or exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home! COVID-19 symptoms include:
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Muscle pain
  - Sore throat
  - New loss of taste or smell
- All visitors will be required to practice proper social distancing; stay at least 6 feet from other people.

- Visitors are asked to bring face coverings and use them whenever they are in proximity to others. According to the [Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7BB](#), the public is required to wear face coverings in public wherever close contact is unavoidable, unless they have a health condition that prevents it. At Camp Harkness these areas include parking lots and when passing other visitors on a trail or path.