Parks, Other Outdoor Spaces

SAFE MODE: Guidelines for safer operations during the COVID-19 pandemic

As Philadelphia residents and workers restart economic and physical activities, they must do so safely—that is, in a way that prevents the COVID-19 virus from spreading from person to person. Everyone must take precautions consistently to protect not only themselves, but also their family members, friends, colleagues, and everyone else.

The precautions will vary by the activity and setting, but some general guidelines apply to all.

Safety Checklist

Masks
Block the virus from spreading from infected individuals by wearing masks and requiring others to wear them.

Barriers
Use sneeze guards or plexiglass screens to prevent respiratory droplets expelled by infected persons from reaching others.

Isolate
Keep people who might be carrying the virus safely away from others (ideally at home).

Distance
Maintain space between people to reduce the chance that one infected individual will infect others.

Reduce crowds
Decrease the number of people that an infected person could pass the virus to if other steps are not successful.

Handwashing
Reduce the spread of virus from one person to another from touching contaminated surfaces.

Clean
Remove respiratory droplets that may contain virus from surfaces that people may touch.

Communicate
Ensure staff, customers, and others taking part in permitted activities understand this Safety Checklist.

This Safety Checklist must be followed at all times. If an employee, customer, or participant develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, businesses and other organizations must take additional precautions to stop the virus from spreading further, as described in Guidance for Essential Businesses and Organizations During COVID-19. Required precautions include calling the Philadelphia Department of Public Health at 215-685-6741 to report positive cases.

If employees or customers want to report possible health and safety violations in the workplace related to COVID-19, please call 311.

If you have questions or concerns about the applicability of these guidelines to your business, please email business@phila.gov.

Note that guidance in this document is subject to change. Please check back for updates.

This document is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening in the Yellow Phase and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

See also:

1. Order of the Secretary of Health providing for building safety measures, issued April 5, 2020.
2. Order of the Secretary of Health providing for business safety measures (to keep employees and customers safe), issued April 15, 2020.
5. Other future applicable Department of Health (DOH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Parks, Other Outdoor Spaces

Gatherings of over 25 are prohibited by the state until the Green Phase. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health recommends that no gatherings of any size be held until Green Phase.

The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening in the Yellow Phase and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

See also:
Schools/Afterschool Programs/Camps and Outdoor Youth Sports Camps
PA Summer Recreation, Parks, and Pools.
CDC Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds during COVID-19.

Protections Needed

Masks
• Provide masks for employees and require them to mask when on site except only:
  – As necessary for the employee to eat or drink during break times. The employee should be seated at least 6 feet from others when taking off mask.
• Require attendees to mask while on site. Have employees distribute masks to visitors if practical.
  – Masks should not be used while in water (pools, spray grounds).

Isolate
• Screen every employee for symptoms before every shift and prevent them from remaining on site if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell.
• It is not necessary to conduct on-site temperature measurement for staff or attendees. If you measure temperatures, use a no-touch thermometer, and do not allow anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or higher to remain on-site.

  • Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings.
  • If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, businesses and other organizations must take additional precautions to stop the virus from spreading further, as described in Guidance for Essential Businesses and Organizations During COVID-19. Required precautions include calling PDPH at 215 685-6741 to report positive cases.

Distance
• Encourage users to stay at least 6 feet away from other people.

Reduce crowds
• Identify areas where the most crowding is anticipated and limit crowds by opening additional spaces and posting signage notifying users of alternate options.
• Spray grounds that can restrict usage to 25 people and enforce physical distancing through use of staff monitors can open in Yellow Phase.
• All public swimming and bathing places (including pools/spas at apartment complexes, condo associations, clubs, gyms, and recreational facilities) are closed during the Yellow Phase.

Handwashing
• Place signage about handwashing outside communal bathrooms.
• Give staff hourly handwashing breaks.

Communicate
• Educate staff about strategies to prevent spread of COVID-19.
• Post prominent signs at entrances.
  – Asking people who are sick or who have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days not to enter.
  – Encouraging people to cover coughs or sneezes.
  – Mandating physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
  – Mandating that all staff and park users wear masks when not able to distance, except while in water.