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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

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Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 20-023

HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR AMUSEMENT AND WATER PARKS PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 157

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2020, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order 103, declaring the existence of a Public Health Emergency, pursuant to the Emergency Health Powers Act, N.J.S.A. 26:13-1 et seq., and a State of Emergency, pursuant to the Disaster Control Act, N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq., in the State of New Jersey for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Emergency was extended by Governor Murphy under Executive Orders 119, 138 and 151; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks; and

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 157, allowing all outdoor amusement and water parks to resume operations as of July 2, 2020, if they are in compliance with health and safety standards issued by the Commissioner of the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, under the declared public health emergency, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is empowered, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-12, to take all reasonable and necessary measures to prevent the transmission of infectious disease and apply proper controls and treatment for infectious disease; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUDITH PERSICHILLI, Commissioner of the DOH, pursuant to the powers afforded to me under the Emergency Health Powers Act, hereby ORDER and DIRECT the following:

1. This Executive Directive pertains to establishments operating high-touch outdoor amusement and recreation activities, including amusement parks, theme parks, water parks, and arcades.

2. All establishments operating high-touch outdoor amusement and recreation activities shall comply with the attached Department of Health standards for outdoor amusement pursuant to Executive Order No. 157 (2020).

This Directive shall take effect immediately. The provisions of this Directive shall remain in force and effect for the duration of the public health emergency originally declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), and as extended by Executive Order, unless otherwise modified, supplemented and/or rescinded.

Judith M. Persichilli

Judith Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A.
Commissioner

July 1, 2020

Date

Health and Safety Standards for High-Touch Outdoor Amusement and Recreation Activities Pursuant to Executive Order No. 157

July 1, 2020

On June 26, 2020, Governor Murphy, moving the state forward into next phase 'Stage 2', issued Executive Order No. 157 allowing all outdoor amusement to resume operations.

These standards are intended for establishments operating high-touch outdoor amusement and recreation activities. Examples of establishments falling into this category include amusement parks, theme parks, water parks, and arcades.

Amusement and water parks that are indoors remain closed at this time.

High-touch outdoor amusement and recreation establishments are to adhere to the protocols listed below:

Establishment

- Limit occupancy to 50% of the stated maximum capacity, excluding employees of the establishment. Limit any indoor portions to 25 percent of the stated maximum capacity. Ensure that the maximum occupancy limits are posted on site.

- Require staff and attendees to wear, at minimum, a cloth face covering at all times except when doing so would inhibit an individual's health or safety, the individual is under two years of age, or when impracticable, such as when individuals are eating or drinking while seated, or in an aquatic space such as a pool.

- Develop a plan to screen guests/visitors for illness upon their entry into the venue. At a minimum, establishments should post signage listing symptom questions and/or conduct direct screening of customers regarding COVID-19 symptoms. Some establishments may opt to conduct temperature screening of all guests and if this option is selected individuals with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should not be permitted on premise.

- Implement health screening assessment (i.e., questionnaire, temperature check) before employees begin work each day by asking about (1) COVID-19 symptoms in past 14 days, (2) positive COVID-19 diagnostic test in past 14 days, and/or (3) close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in

past 14 days. Assessment responses should be reviewed every day and such review should be documented. Any staff with a temperature above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit should be immediately sent home.

- Establish health/safety protocol for the venue should a customer or employee fall ill while at the attraction and not be able to immediately leave the facility. Immediate isolation the ill person and have the person wear a mask.
- Establish a "guest flow" plan, including managing queues and making walkways or stairways one-way or clearly divided for bi-directional travel. Include appropriate directional signs/markers. Address high-traffic intersections to maximize physical distance between persons.
- Conduct height safety checks according to existing protocol. Consider centralized height check location to limit employee and guest contact.
- Adjust seating on amusement rides (e.g., seating every other ride vehicle, limiting capacity on a ride to allow for space between groups).
- Manage entrance and exit points to the venue or locations within the venue to manage customer ingress and egress (while maintaining appropriate availability of emergency/fire exits), when possible. If lines form or are anticipated, ensure 6 or more feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
- Implement social distancing "reminder" signs, floor decals or ground markings, or video/audio announcements, particularly where individuals may form a line. Consider alternative queuing methods where possible to manage capacity and facilitate social distancing
- Temporarily close areas of the venue not conducive to social distancing or disinfection practices are difficult or impossible to maintain.
- Establish a schedule and document procedures to sanitize high-touch areas frequently (e.g., seats, tables, benches, elevators, handrails, counters, doorknobs). Ensure adequate supply of soap, hand sanitizer, cleaning materials and equipment
- Promote social distancing in seating areas by spacing out tables or eliminating or closing a portion of the tables. Sanitize common seating areas and frequently-touched surfaces throughout the day, following a consistent schedule (recommended at least every two hours)
- Adjust equipment layout and close or restrict access to equipment to maintain appropriate social distancing among customers
- Hand sanitizer should be made widely available for staff and guests to use
- Adjust routine building and venue checklists to include appropriate sanitization procedures as recommended herein or by the CDC.

- Sanitize high-contact surfaces and shared equipment such as mini-golf clubs, harnesses, helmets, lap bars, etc. after each use
- For venues operating parking lot trams, use modified seating arrangements to allow for appropriate social distancing; regularly sanitize seats
- Lockers or ride storage areas used for guests' personal belongings must be sanitized frequently
- Evaluate restrooms and limit occupancy to comply with social distancing requirements. Consider dedicating employees to cleaning/disinfecting restrooms frequently.
- Attractions should consider adding physical barriers when there may be close interaction (less than 6 feet) for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes or more) between guests and staff or between staff.
- Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., at entrances, in restrooms, on televisions) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs, such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering. Provide signs and messages in multiple languages.
- Establishments are encouraged to broadcast regular announcements about reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems. Include messages about behaviors that prevent spread of COVID-19 when communicating with staff and customers (such as on business websites, in emails, and on social media). Ensure messages are culturally appropriate.
- Install physical barriers ("sneeze guards") at ticket windows and point of sale stations; clean such barriers regularly (e.g., every two hours and when visibly dirty). Encourage advance ticket or other purchases where possible.
- Utilize cashless or contactless payment methods and reservation and cancellation systems. where possible (e.g., advance purchase online or by phone, or no-sign credit card payment). Assign one person to each Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal, if possible/applicable. Terminals used by multiple employees/guests should be sanitized between each use.
- Consider refund, exchange, and event cancelation or postponement policies, in anticipation that ill persons will be unable to attend or if local health conditions change in your community.
- Encourage visitors to avoid water fountains. Consider alternatives for offering drinking water (e.g., single-serve options, bottled water) or encourage customers to bring their own water.
- Events that may gather crowds of onlookers outside of controlled seated areas (e.g., pop-up or street performer) should be avoided in order to maintain appropriate social distancing.

- Avoid offering interactive attractions that cannot be adequately sanitized in between use.
- Live music or entertainment offered by the establishment involving singing/shouting should adhere to strict social distancing between performers and guests. Establishments are encouraged to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between performers and a greater distance (i.e., 10 feet or more) between audience and performers. Physical barriers can be also be used when adequate distance cannot be maintained.
- Consider installation of no-touch trash bins.
- Ensure protocols established are followed communicated to outside contractors and concessionaires.
- If the establishment has an on-site first aid station, establish protocols for employees to follow should a guest report with COVID-19 symptoms.
- Venues that include food service or concession operations, retail operations, and/or water/swimming operations should also adhere to the general provisions for those specific industries as outlined in Executive Orders Nos. 157 and 158, Executive Directive No. 20-019, and standards for pool operations, available here: https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/sanitation-safety/prb.shtml.

Employees

- Employees will submit to required health screenings developed by the employer.
- Immediately separate and send home workers who appear to have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 illness (e.g., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) upon arrival at work or who become sick during the day.
- All staff should stay home when feeling ill, when exposed to COVID-19 (e.g., positive household member case), or if diagnosed with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Promptly notify workers of any known exposure to COVID-19 at the worksite, consistent with the confidentiality requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and any other applicable laws.
- Staff diagnosed with COVID-19 or determined to be a close contact of a COVID-19 case must isolate or quarantine based on established public health criteria.
- Employees will be required to wear, at minimum, a cloth face covering at all times except when doing so would inhibit an individual's health/safety or during designated break times when employee may be eating/drinking.
- Employers should provide training to staff on mitigation and safeguards, including social distancing protocol for interacting with customers. Employers should teach importance of hand washing/use of hand sanitizer, personal hygiene (e.g., avoid

touching their face, using tissue or elbow for sneeze/cough) and other preventative measures. Pre-opening trainings to ensure employees are well informed of new protocols, both for their work and their personal health.

- Employers should evaluate areas where large groups (e.g., break rooms, locker rooms) may gather. Post signage to remind employees of social distancing guidelines and alter these spaces to encourage social distancing (e.g., re-arranging tables/chairs, placing physical barriers, placement of floor markers). Close non-essential common areas used by employees. Use of schedule to stagger start times/break schedules, or other means of staggered scheduling may help further reduce large gatherings.
- Employers should ensure employees are routinely updated (e.g., daily updates to all employees on latest facts concerning COVID-19 in community, updated policies).
- Require employees to wash and/or sanitize their hands prior to each shift and provide adequate break time for repeated handwashing through the workday.
- Employees should avoid physically assisting/lifting guests. If a guest needs assistance, ask another member of their party to help.
- Employees should not share equipment (computers, phones, radios, etc.). If equipment must be shared, employees should wash/sanitize their hands before and after using that equipment and the high-touch surfaces on the equipment should be sanitized frequently.

Customers

- Require customers to wear, at minimum, a cloth face covering at all times except when doing so would inhibit an individual's health, the individual is under two years of age. or when impracticable, such as when individuals are eating or drinking while seated, or in an aquatic space such as a pool.
- Submit to any required health screening developed by the establishment.
- Customers with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) should be denied access to premise.
- Customers should adhere to all social distancing and safety guidance established by the venue.

Resources

New Jersey Department of Health

General COVID-19 Information

https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/ncov.shtml

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

General COVID-19 Information

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), May 2020

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html

Cleaning and Disinfecting

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html

Parks and Recreational Facilities

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/index.html

Aquatic Venues

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html

If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html