State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Governor

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Lt. Governor

JUDITH M. PERSICHILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 20-029

HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR OUTDOOR AND INDOOR HIGH-TOUCH AMUSEMENT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDERS NOS. 157 and 181

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, 151, 162, 171 and 180; 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 outdoor high-touch amusement and recreation activities to operate subject to certain requirements; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2020, the Department of Health issued Executive Directive No. 20-023, “Health and Safety Standards for Outdoor Amusement and Water Parks Pursuant to Executive Order No. 157”; and

WHEREAS, on August 27, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 181, allowing, *inter alia*, amusement and water parks to open their indoor premises to the public subject to certain requirements and if they are in compliance with the health and safety guidelines and 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 amusement and recreation activities, including amusement parks, theme parks and water parks.

2. This Executive Directive hereby supersedes Executive Directive No. 20-023, "Health and Safety Standards for Outdoor Amusement and Water Parks Pursuant to Executive Order No. 157."

3. Establishments covered by this Executive Directive shall comply with the attached Department of Health standards, entitled "Health and Safety Standards for Outdoor and Indoor High-Touch Amusement and Recreation Activities Pursuant to Executive Orders Nos. 157 and 181," as amended and supplemented.

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.

August 28, 2020

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

Health and Safety Standards for Outdoor and Indoor High-Touch Amusement and Recreation Activities Pursuant to Executive Orders Nos. 157 and 181
August 28, 2020

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

On August 27, 2020, Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 181 allowing indoor amusement parks to resume operations.

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

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

Establishment

- Limit total capacity of any outdoor area to a number that ensures that all individuals can remain six feet apart, except for amusement parks and water parks, which are limited to 50 percent capacity of the stated maximum capacity, excluding the employees of those businesses.
- Limit total capacity of 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 masks/face covering at all times except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when in the water and in other situations where the presence of a mask would pose a risk to the individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age.
- Water parks must also adhere to the requirements of Executive Order No. 153 (2020), Executive Order 157 (2020) and the "Health and Safety Standards for Pools and Aquatic Recreation Facilities."
- A facility shall conduct a temperature screening and questionnaire of staff and clients upon entrance to the facility. Any individual who is found to have a temperature of 100.4 or above, or who answers yes to any of the following or similar questions, shall be denied entrance to the facility:

- Within the last 10 days have you been diagnosed with COVID-19, had a test confirming you have the virus, or been advised to self-isolate or quarantine by your doctor or a public health official?
- Have you had any one or more of the following symptoms today or within the past 24 hours, which is not new or not explained by another reason? ▪ Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea?
- In the past 14 days, have you had close contact as defined at https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/NCOV_chapter.pdf with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19?

- If the employer is notified of a positive case of a worker or client at the workplace, the employer shall notify the local health department (LHD) in the city or town where the workplace is located and assist the LHD as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to self-quarantine.
- Establish health/safety protocol for the venue should a customer or employee become ill while at the attraction. Immediately isolate 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.
- Anticipate lines forming for attractions, rides, and at points of sale and ensure 6 or more feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
- Adjust seating on amusement rides to accommodate six feet of distance (e.g., seating every other ride vehicle, except in the case of same family/household groupings, limiting capacity on a ride to allow for space between unrelated family 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. Anticipate lines forming and ensure 6 or more feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
- Implement social distancing signage, floor decals or ground markings, and/or video/audio announcements, particularly where individuals may form a line. Consider alternative queuing methods where possible to manage crowds and facilitate social distancing.

- Temporarily close areas of the venue not conducive to social distancing or where disinfection practices are difficult or impossible to maintain.
- Establish a written schedule and documented 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.
- Develop written policies and procedures for cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces. Develop a written frequency for cleaning such high traffic areas. 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 stations must be installed throughout the facility.
- Adjust routine building and venue checklists to include appropriate sanitization procedures as recommended herein or by the CDC.
- Sanitize shared equipment offered for rental 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 at minimum three times daily staggered over the course of daily operating hours).
- Individually partitioned showers or communal showers with installed barriers/partitions (at least 6 feet apart) are permitted at facilities with pools (in accordance with the NJAC 8:26, Public Recreational Bathing). Showers are not otherwise permitted.
- Locker room use will be limited to hand washing and restroom use. Additionally, shower use is limited to circumstances listed above.
- 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 must broadcast regular announcements about reducing the

spread of COVID-19 on PA systems where available. 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 soiled). Assign one person to each Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal. Terminals should be sanitized between each use.
- 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). Encourage advance ticket sales or other such purchase options wherever possible.
- Frequently sanitize water fountains where use is permitted.
- Avoid events that may gather crowds of onlookers outside of controlled seated areas (e.g., pop-up or street performer) in order to maintain appropriate social distancing. Any music or other entertainment offered by the establishment involving a live performance that is otherwise permitted at the facility must adhere to strict social distancing between performers and guests. Establishments must maintain at least six feet of distance between performers and a greater distance (i.e., 10 feet or more) between audience and performers. Physical barriers may be used in addition to social distancing requirements.
- Avoid the offering of interactive attractions that cannot be adequately sanitized in between use.
- Consider installation of no-touch trash bins.
- Ensure protocols established are followed and communicated to outside contractors and concessionaires.
- First aid stations must be established and protocols for the isolation and removal of impacted persons developed for the care of those who become ill while on-site.
- Venues that include food service or concession operations, retail operations, and/or water/swimming operations should also adhere to the applicable standards for those specific activities and businesses.

Indoor Air/Ventilation

- Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.

- Inspect and evaluate the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit to ensure that the system is operating within its design specifications.
- Conduct routine maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer or HVAC professional.
- Within the design specification of the HVAC unit:
    - Increase the volume of outdoor air to the maximum capacity while the facility is occupied.
    - Reduce the volume of recirculated air being returned to the indoor spaces
    - Increase the volume of air being delivered to the indoor spaces to the maximum capacity
    - Select maximum filtration levels for the HVAC unit.
    - Run the HVAC unit continuously while the facility is occupied.
    - Run the HVAC unit for at least two hours before and two hours after the facility is occupied.
- Consider installing portable air cleaners equipped with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to increase the amount of clean air within the facility.
- Review and follow the latest CDC guidance for ventilation requirements.

Employees

- As described above, employers must require employees to submit to a daily health screening which includes temperature checks and symptom (e.g., fever, cough, or shortness of breath) evaluation.
- 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.
- Adopt policies that require staff to stay home when ill, when exposed to COVID-19 (e.g., positive household member case), or when 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 guidance provided by the local health authority.

- Require employees to wear, at minimum, a mask/ 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 must 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. Provide pre-opening trainings to ensure employees are well informed of new protocols, both for their work and their personal health.
- Employers must 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. Staggering start times/break schedules, or other means of staggered scheduling may help further reduce large gatherings.
- Employers should ensure employees are routinely updated concerning COVID-19 in the community and workplace
- Require employees to wash and/or sanitize their hands prior to each shift and provide adequate break time for repeated handwashing through the workday.
- Employers must ensure that employees do not share equipment (computers, phones, radios, etc.) wherever possible. If equipment must be shared, employers must institute policies requiring employees to wash/sanitize their hands before and after using that equipment and must ensure that high-touch surfaces on the equipment are sanitized frequently.

Customers

Businesses must maintain policies that:

- Require customers to wear, at minimum, a masks/face covering at all times except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such as when in the water and in other situations where the presence of a mask would pose a risk to the individual's health or where the individual is under two years of age.
- Require customers to submit to any required health screening developed by the establishment.
- Customers with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath) must 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
Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program: Public Recreation Bathing

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Facts about COVID-19

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

CDC Cleaning and Disinfecting

Sports, Parks and Recreational Facilities

Considerations for Aquatic Venues

If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone