

# MI SAFE START: PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

## An informed-choice guidance for evaluating protective measures

As locations begin the process of reopening or scaling up after their initial response to COVID-19, certain actions will be inherently more protective of their staff and the general public. This document provides guidance that should be followed regardless of the current level of COVID-19 transmission, and additional measures that can be scaled depending on local levels of COVID-19 transmission and the protective measures desired.

**Note:** This guidance does not constitute legal advice and is subject to change. MDHHS will continue to monitor best practices and will issue updated guidance as our collective knowledge of COVID-19 continues to improve. Visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) for updates. New versions of this document will be posted online.

## Guidelines for all parks and outdoor recreational facilities, regardless of local COVID-19 transmission levels:

### *Understand your community*

- Establish and maintain communication with tribal, local and state authorities to determine current contact tracing protocol, local mitigation levels, or local reengagement phase for your community, as described in the [MI Safe Start](#) plan.
- Strongly consider special accommodations for employees who are members of an at-risk population. Possible considerations could include flexible leave, telework when feasible, or the reassignment to duties to reduce contact with the general public. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to work or other environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents.
- Strongly consider special accommodations for clients who are members of an at-risk population. Possible considerations could include special operating hours solely for those at-risk individuals, separate recreational areas isolated from the rest of the establishment, or enhanced sanitation measures. Members of households with at-risk residents should be aware that by returning to environments where distancing is not possible, they could carry the virus back home. Precautions should be taken to isolate from at-risk residents.
- Employers should follow applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for businesses to plan and respond to COVID-19.



### *Safe behaviors*

- Enforce hand washing and the covering of coughs and sneezes at all times.
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene practices for both employees and customers including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, and tissues.
- Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Remove gloves properly and wash hands afterwards.
- No pre or post event handshakes, hugs, fist bumps, high fives, or contact celebrations.
- Participants should be discouraged from congregating before, during, or after spending time at the facility.
- No spitting, chewing gum, or tobacco in the event areas.
- For outdoor athletic facilities, ensure enough time between competitions for proper cleaning and disinfection of the facility and shared equipment.
- When disinfecting, use products that meet [EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2](#) and that are appropriate for the surface. Prior to wiping the surface, allow the disinfectant to sit for the necessary contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Train staff on proper cleaning procedures to ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants.
- Consider making available individual disinfectant wipes in bathrooms and locker rooms.
- Provide no-touch trash cans and, if equipped, encourage use of no-touch doors.
- Ensure that ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible such as by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to employees, children, or customers.
- Take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other contaminants associated with water.
- Train all employees in the above safety actions while maintaining social distancing and/or use of face coverings during training.

### *Health checks and response actions*

- Require staff who are sick to stay at home.
- If implementing health checks, conduct them safely and respectfully, and in accordance with any applicable privacy laws and regulations. Confidentiality should be respected. Employers may use examples of screening methods in [CDC's General Business FAQs](#) as a guide.
- Designate a staff person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. Employees should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Create and test communication systems for employees for self-reporting and notification of exposures and closures.
- Employees with symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea) at work should immediately be sent to their home.



- Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, and to follow [CDC guidance for home isolation](#) if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms follow appropriate [CDC guidance for home quarantine](#).
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone sick to their home or to a healthcare facility.
- Notify local health officials, staff, and customers (if possible) immediately of any possible case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use them until after cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members not to return until they have met [CDC's criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
- Implement flexible sick leave and other flexible policies and practices, such as telework, if feasible.
- Monitor absenteeism of employees and create a roster of trained back-up staff.
- Support coping and resilience among employees.

*Be prepared for closings*

- Check State and local health department notices about transmission in the area daily and adjust operations accordingly.
- Be prepared to consider temporarily closing facilities if there is a case of COVID-19 in the establishment or if cases increase in the local area.

## Additional guidelines for parks and outdoor recreational facilities arranged by level of protective behavior:

### Facial Coverings and Distancing:



<b>Facial Coverings: Clients and Visitors</b>	Facial covering required at all times; activities that require facial covering removal are not allowed	Facial covering required at all times, individuals may remove facial covering during activities if necessary	Facial covering encouraged at all times; individuals may remove facial covering during activities if necessary	No recommendations on facial coverings
<b>Facial Coverings: Employees</b>	Facial covering required at all times	Facial covering encouraged at all times; facial covering required when within six feet of clients	Facial encouraged when within six feet of clients	No recommendations on facial coverings
<b>Personal Distancing: Clients</b>	Clients from different households are never within six feet	Clients from different households are occasionally and temporarily within six feet		Clients from different households are often within six feet or are within six feet for prolonged periods of time
<b>Personal Distancing: Client to Employee</b>	Employees and clients remain six feet apart during all interactions	Partitions are used when employees and clients are within six feet of each other during all interactions	Employees and clients are within six feet of each other (without partitions) numerous times	Employees and clients are within six feet of each other (without partitions) for the majority of their interactions
<b>Personal Distancing: Employees</b>	Employees are never within six feet of each other	Employees are within six feet of each other occasionally while passing	Employees are within six feet of each other commonly at typical choke points	Employees are within six feet of each other often



**Business Operations:**



<b>Activities and Services Offered</b>	No in-person activities or services are allowed, facilities remain closed	In-person activities or services that allow for social distancing or facial coverings are allowed	All activities and services are allowed, including ones that do not allow for the use of facial coverings
<b>Childcare or Day Camps</b>	Childcare and day camps are open for dependents of essential workers and others returning to the work force, attendees are limited to those from the immediate geographic area		Childcare and day camps are open, attendees are limited to those from the immediate geographic area
<b>High Use Areas</b>	Close facilities and areas where social distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., water parks, courts, playgrounds)		Facilities and areas where social distancing cannot be maintained (e.g., water parks, courts, playgrounds) are open without restriction
<b>Picnic Facilities</b>	Picnic facilities and shared barbecue pits are closed	Picnic facilities and shared barbecue pits are open, all tables spaced six feet apart, tables closer than six feet are indicated as off-use	Picnic facilities and shared barbecue pits are open
<b>Reservations of Facilities</b>	All reservable facilities are prescheduled only, no walk-up use for unreserved facilities		Walk-up use of unreserved facilities allowed
<b>Sharing of Facilities</b>	Sporting facilities, recreational areas, and pavilions are used by a single team or group, facilities are deep cleaned at the end of the day	Sporting facilities, recreational areas, and pavilions are shared by multiple groups over the course of the day, increase the amount of time between uses to allow for one group to leave before another group enters the facility, clean and disinfect the facility between uses	Sporting facilities, recreational areas, and pavilions are shared by multiple groups over the course of the day, increase the amount of time between uses to allow for one group to leave before another group enters the facility, usage time for groups sometimes overlap



<b>Spectators</b>	Spectators are not allowed at practices or competition events	Require social distancing between spectators from different households, and limit spectator capacity so social distancing guidelines can be adhered to	Encourage social distancing between spectators from different households	Spectators are allowed at practices or competition events
<b>Signage</b>	Post signs on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly wear a face covering		No signage posted	
<b>Drinking Water</b>	Clients bring their own water, bottle filling stations and drinking fountains are closed		Clients encouraged to bring their own water, bottle filling stations and drinking fountains are open with daily cleaning	Clients encouraged to bring their own water, bottle filling stations and drinking fountains are open
<b>Payment</b>	Use touchless payment options		Exchange cash or credit card payment by placing method of payment on receipt tray or on counter rather than by hand, disinfect pens before and after use	No payment restrictions in place
<b>Merchandise Returns</b>	Prohibit the return of purchased products or merchandise	If there must be a return of purchased products or merchandise, disinfect merchandise before restocking, do not allow a return on merchandise that cannot be disinfected	If there must be a return of purchased products or merchandise, disinfect returned merchandise if possible	No restrictions on returns

**Sanitation and Cleaning:**



<b>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (for example, door handles, handrails)</b>	Frequently touched surfaces cleaned hourly	Frequently touched surfaces cleaned daily	
<b>Clean and disinfect shared objects (for example, sports equipment, picnic tables)</b>	Shared objects cleaned between each use	Shared objects cleaned hourly	Shared objects cleaned daily
<b>Merchandise</b>	Clean all merchandise before stocking, merchandise handled by staff only	Clean all merchandise before stocking	Merchandise stocked without being cleaned
<b>Deep Cleaning</b>	Close one day per week (or proceed after business hours) for a thorough deep cleaning of the facilities	Deep cleaning of the facilities regularly performed, but not weekly	Deep cleaning of the facilities not regularly performed
<b>Employee Duties</b>	Cleaning and disinfecting time is built into the employee's daily work schedule		Cleaning and disinfecting time is not accounted for in the employee's work schedule



**Health and Wellbeing:**



<b>Health Screening: Client</b>	Signage posted around facilities explaining symptoms of COVID-19		No signage posted
<b>Health Screening: Employee</b>	Conduct pre-shift health checks (including temperature and symptom screening) of all employees	Conduct pre-shift symptom screening of all employees (excluding temperature check)	No health screening of employees
<b>Contact Tracing</b>	Keep a list of contact numbers for all individuals, including individual team members, that are using reservable recreational facilities		Keep a list of contact numbers for all individuals and coaches that are using reservable recreational facilities  List of individuals using reservable recreational facilities is incomplete

**Employee Policy:**



<b>Telework</b>	Telework required whenever possible and feasible with business operations	Telework encouraged whenever possible and feasible with business operations	Telework considered whenever possible and feasible with business operations	Telework not supported even though possible and feasible with business operations
<b>Employee Shifts</b>	Set shifts so that employees are working with the same cohort of employees on a day-to-day basis, stagger start times so employee cohorts do not overlap	Set shifts so that employees are working with the same cohort of employees on a day-to-day basis	Employees work with different employees from day to day	
<b>Employee Common Areas</b>	Common areas closed	Common areas open but enforce capacity to ensure six feet separation	Common areas open with six feet separation encouraged	Common areas open with no restrictions
<b>Business Travel</b>	Non-essential business travel not allowed	Non-essential business travel limited to local travel between similar transmission areas	Non-essential business travel limited to domestic travel between similar transmission areas	Non-essential business travel not restricted

