

Guidance for Townships on Park and Recreational Facilities and Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Updated April 2021

This document provides direction and links to resources for the safe operation of recreational facilities and programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gov. Tom Wolf issued an order for [Mitigation, Enforcement, and Immunity Protections](#) that took effect November 27, 2020, and was [amended with new provisions that took effect on April 4, 2021](#). The order requires in-person operations to follow the procedures in the order, including cleaning, signage, and use of masks. The order addresses indoor recreation and gathering limits.

Indoor recreation and health and wellness facilities: Indoor facilities may operate at no more than 75 percent occupancy. Outdoor physical fitness activities should be prioritized. Face masks are required for both outdoor and indoor activities, as well as social distancing of at least six feet. [CDC procedures](#) for cleaning must be followed.

Facility rental for groups: Under state orders, townships must limit the size of groups renting township facilities to the current limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings. [Gathering limits for indoor events](#) are 25 percent of maximum occupancy. Gathering limits for outdoors are 75 percent of maximum occupancy.

All facilities must be able to maintain 6-foot physical distancing between attendees and workers.

All facilities must implement best practices such as timed entry, multiple entry and exit points, added pathways to allow for physical distancing, and multiple restrooms and hygiene stations.

Townships must clean and disinfect facilities prior to rental following [CDC guidance](#). Renters must be notified that [face masks](#) are required. If renting indoor areas, reduce the use of high-contact surfaces by leaving doors open where appropriate. Post signs at indoor facilities of the current maximum capacity for the building and room and reminders to social distance and use face coverings.

Team sports: Township officials should ensure that sports organizations that plan to use township facilities are aware of both [state](#) and [CDC guidance](#) for team sports and have put a plan in place to keep players safe. This includes compliance with the gathering limits and mitigation orders.

Parks, playgrounds, ballfields, and courts: Follow [CDC guidance for park and recreational facilities](#). This includes the following:

- Display posters and signs throughout the park to frequently

remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as practice social distancing by staying six feet apart, wear cloth face masks, and frequently wash hands.

- [CDC Stop the Spread](#)
- [CDC What You Should Know About COVID-19](#)
- Maintain restrooms. Ensure that they have functional toilets, regularly cleaned and disinfected surfaces, and handwashing supplies following [CDC guidance](#).
- Be prepared to cancel or postpone events and gatherings.
- Be thoughtful about the care of playgrounds. Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection.
- Make sure people are social distancing in popular areas of the park, such as sports fields, playgrounds, skateparks, basketball courts, tennis courts, and picnic areas.
- Keep your park staff informed about COVID-19 and park policies on a regular basis.

Additional Resources

- [State Guidance for All Sports Permitted to Operate During the COVID-19 Disaster Emergency to Ensure the Safety and Health of Employees, Athletes, and the Public](#)
- [CDC/EPA Cleaning & Disinfecting Guidance](#)
- [CDC Guidance for Park Administrators](#)
- [DCNR COVID-19 and Outdoor Recreation Signage](#)

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