

I. Playgrounds

Cleaning and Disinfection of Playgrounds

CDC has issued [reopening guidance for cleaning and disinfection](#) for outdoor areas.

[According to CDC](#), “outdoor areas, like playgrounds in schools and parks generally require normal cleaning, but do not require disinfection.” CDC provides the following guidance regarding cleaning of playgrounds and park amenities:

- Do not spray disinfectant on outdoor playgrounds — it is not an efficient use of supplies and is not proven to reduce risk of COVID-19 to the public.
- High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal, such as grab bars and railings should be [cleaned routinely](#).
- Cleaning and disinfection of wooden surfaces (play structures, benches, tables) or groundcovers (mulch, sand) is not recommended.

Reopening Playgrounds

While many outdoor areas do not require additional disinfection measures, playgrounds and park equipment that is frequently touched by multiple people poses another challenge when considering reopening.

CDC specifically cites that “there are additional concerns with outdoor areas that may be maintained less frequently, including playgrounds, or other facilities located within local, state or national parks.” Some of these concerns include:

- They are often crowded and could easily exceed recommended guidance for gatherings.
- It can be challenging to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- The virus can spread when young children touch contaminated equipment and then touch their unwashed hands to their eyes, nose or mouth.

Based on these challenges, CDC advises park users to [continue not to use playgrounds](#) and other frequently touched equipment. Because of the concerns above, NRPA believes that playgrounds should remain closed until there is no [widespread community transmission](#) of the virus.

II. Outdoor Restrooms (Permanent and Temporary)

CDC issued guidance for park administrators managing outdoor restrooms on April 10, 2020.

If possible, restrooms should remain open if a park remains open for public visitation. If restrooms will be closed, notify visitors ahead of time so they can prepare appropriately. Ensure that open restrooms are:

- **Operational with functional toilets.**
- **Cleaned and disinfected regularly**, particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs and light switches. Clean and disinfect restrooms daily or more often if possible. The [EPA-registered household disinfectants listed here](#) are recommended. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep products away from children.
- **Regularly stocked with supplies for handwashing**, including soap and materials for drying hands or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Oftentimes, restroom facilities without running water, such as portable toilets and vault toilets, are not stocked with hand hygiene products. Agencies can rent stand-alone handwashing and sanitizing stations or encourage visitors to be prepared to bring their own hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol for use in these facilities.

Based on this guidance, both permanent and temporary outdoor restrooms should be opened when they can be regularly cleaned, disinfected and regularly stocked with supplies for handwashing. Restrooms that have closed should be prioritized in a reopening plan, as they support and promote healthy hygiene and public health.

III. Outdoor Courts, Skateparks, Exercise Equipment, etc.

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

IV. Swimming Pools and Splashpads

Swimming Pools

Park and recreation professionals should adhere to all state and local public health guidance regarding swimming pool operations and management. In addition, based on CDC guidance (outlined below), park and recreation professionals should conduct thorough planning prior to reopening addressing these factors:

1. Evaluate your facility to better understand the spaces, surfaces, materials and risks that are present.

2. Develop your plan for reopening. Plan should include:
 - Cleaning and disinfection measures for all parts of facility (restrooms, pool furniture, front desk, concessions, doorknobs, locker rooms, faucets/sinks, etc.).
 - Physical distancing, limiting equipment sharing, and enforcement policies.
 - Implementing environmental controls — barriers between staff and pool users, removal of furniture, entry lines with 6 ft of distance, etc.
 - Swimming pool user measures — proper hygiene, face coverings, health screenings, etc.
 - Staff safety measures — establish policies for safe behavioral practices (physical distancing, hand washing, face coverings, health screenings, protocols on first aid and CPR, etc).
 - Communications plan.
3. Maintain and revise your plan as needed through recovery phases.

CDC Resources for Water Management

CDC's Water and COVID-19 FAQs page states "there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, spas, or water play areas. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) of these facilities should inactivate the virus in the water.

While there is [ongoing community spread](#) of the virus that causes COVID-19, it is important for individuals as well as owners and operators of these facilities to take steps to ensure health and safety:

- Everyone should follow local and state guidance that may determine when and how recreational water facilities may operate.
- Individuals should continue to [protect themselves and others](#) at recreational water venues both in and out of the water — for example, by practicing social distancing and proper hygiene.
- In addition to ensuring water safety and quality, owners and operators of community pools, hot tubs, spas and water play areas should follow the [interim guidance for businesses and employers](#) for cleaning and disinfecting their community facilities.

Swimming Pool Park Administrator Guidance

Specific park user and administrator guidance was provided on April 10, 2020.

Proper operation, maintenance and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of swimming pools should kill the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Maintain proper disinfectant levels (1–10 parts per million free chlorine or 3–8 ppm bromine) and pH (7.2–8).
- CDC's [Model Aquatic Health Code](#) has more recommendations to prevent illness and injuries at public pools in parks.

Swimming Pool Park User Guidance

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the water. Proper operation, maintenance and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of pools should kill COVID-19.

Swimming and other water-related activities are excellent ways to get the [physical activity](#) needed for a healthy life. If you are not sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, it is safe to use swimming pools as long as [steps](#) are taken to [reduce the spread](#) of COVID-19:

- Practice [social distancing](#) by staying at least six feet (two meters) from others.
- Avoid [large](#) gatherings of more than 10 people.
- Keep your hands clean by washing hands with soap and water, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Swimming does carry some health risks. Visit [CDC's Healthy Swimming website](#) for information to help you prevent illness and [drowning](#), while having fun and enjoying the health benefits of swimming.

Splashpads/Water Parks/Water Playgrounds

CDC issued guidance for hot tubs, water playgrounds or water parks on April 10, 2020.

According to CDC, "There is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread directly to humans from water in pools, hot tubs or spas or water play areas. Proper operation, maintenance and disinfection (for example, with chlorine or bromine) of pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds should kill the virus that causes COVID-19." While this means that regular operation, maintenance and disinfection should kill the virus, park users should not use these facilities at this time because:

- They are often crowded and could easily exceed recommended guidance for gatherings.
- It can be challenging to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- The virus can spread when young children touch contaminated equipment and then touch their unwashed hands to their eyes, nose or mouth.

Based on these challenges, CDC advises park users to [continue not to use splashpads, water playgrounds or water park features](#) and other frequently touched equipment. Because of the concerns above, NRPA believes that splashpads, water playgrounds and other water park features should remain closed until there is no widespread community transmission of the virus.

V. Sports – Youth and Adult

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

Other resources available:

- [The Aspen Institute's Project Play Resource Center](#)

VI. Dog Parks

CDC issued guidance for people who have animals on April 21, 2020. The guidance states “until we learn more about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a possible infection.”

They have gone on to further advise people who have pets to follow these guidelines until we learn more about how the virus affects animals:

- Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.
- Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people.
- Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people and animals.
- Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

VII. Childcare Programs and Summer Camps

Childcare Programs

CDC has issued guidance for [childcare programs](#) including Pre-K, Head Start programs, private and home childcare, and temporary childcare centers operated by municipalities for essential workers. Topics covered include:

- General preparedness
- Guidance for childcare centers currently open
- Social distancing strategies
- Parent drop-off and pick-up
- Screening children upon arrival

- Cleaning and disinfection
- Caring for infants and toddlers
- Healthy hand hygiene behavior
- Food preparation and meal service
- Vulnerable/high risk groups

Summer Camps

Guidance for summer camp programs is expected shortly, however based on [draft guidance](#) obtained by the Washington Post, summer camp guidance may be similar to childcare program guidance.

Other resources available:

- [Draft Guidance from CDC \(reported by Washington Post on 4/28/2020\)](#)
- [American Camp Association Resource Center](#)
- [Association of Camp Nurses Resource Center](#)

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

VIII. Indoor Recreation and Aquatic Centers

Park and recreation professionals should adhere to all state and local public health guidance regarding indoor recreation and aquatic center operations and management. In addition, park and recreation professionals should conduct thorough planning prior to reopening addressing these factors:

1. Evaluate your facility to better understand the spaces, surfaces, materials and risks that are present.
2. Develop your plan for reopening. Plan should include:
 - Cleaning and disinfection measures for all parts of facility (restrooms, pool furniture, front desk, concessions, doorknobs, locker rooms, faucets/sinks, etc.).
 - Physical distancing, limiting equipment sharing and enforcement policies.
 - Implementing environmental controls — barriers between staff and pool users, removal of furniture, entry lines with 6 ft of distance, rearranging equipment, installing sneeze guards, etc.
 - Facility user measures — proper hygiene, face coverings, health screenings, etc.
 - Staff safety measures — establish policies for safe behavioral practices (PPE, physical distancing, hand washing, face coverings, health screenings, protocols on first aid and CPR, etc).
 - Communications plan.
3. Maintain and revise your plan as needed through recovery phases.

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

Other resources available:

- Tennessee Pledge [Exercise Facilities Guidelines](#)
 - In addition to strict adherence to CDC guidelines, the state recommends gyms, fitness/exercise facilities, or substantially similar facilities and activities put into place an assortment of measures to protect consumers and employees.
- [United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee Return to Training Considerations Post-COVID-19](#)
 - The USOPC is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of Team USA. The purpose of this document is to provide athletes, coaches and sports organizations (including National Governing Bodies [NGBs]) with information they can use to assist them with developing their return to training programs in the context of COVID-19.

IX. Farmers Markets

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

Other resources available:

- [Farmers Market Coalition Market Operations Guidance](#)
 - The Farmers Market Coalition has provided guidance to local farmers markets regarding operations.

X. Senior Centers

Given [CDC guidance](#) that all vulnerable individuals, including those aged 65+ and those with underlying chronic health conditions, should continue to shelter in place until there is no evidence of a rebound, **senior centers operated by parks and recreation should not reopen at this time.**

Park and recreation professionals are encouraged to continue providing essential services to older adults including meal programs, food delivery, social connection efforts, wellbeing checks, and virtual programming.

Following confirmation from state and local public health officials that there is no widespread community transmission of the virus, senior centers can reopen. Additional precautions should be taken to enforce physical distancing, enhance cleaning and disinfection, and implement other measures to minimize risk.

NRPA will provide more guidance as available. Check this page regularly for updates.

Other Resources Available:

- [National Council on Aging Resource Center](#)
- [CDC's Older Adults](#) Resource Center
- [AARP](#)