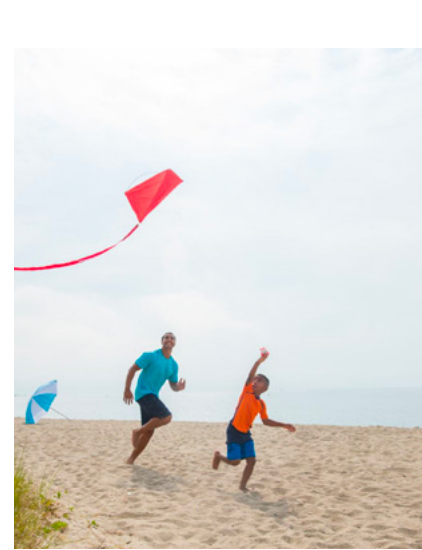


2021 COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines

for Connecticut State Parks and Boat Launches



What's open when?

State Park and Forest recreation areas are planning to return to providing full services to our visitors during the 2021 season.

Most park buildings, museums, nature centers and other enclosed structures, including restrooms, will be opened on Memorial Day weekend. Six feet of social distancing must be maintained at all times while inside park buildings, along with adhering to mask wearing requirements. Visitors who do not abide by these rules may be asked to leave state park property.

There is a current 200-person limit for outdoor group activities in Connecticut (see DECD Sector Rules for Reopen webpage for full details), which may be further adjusted throughout the recreation season.

What's the best way to stay safe?

If you are not feeling well, stay home!

- **Stay close to home.** Do not travel long distances to parks or other recreational areas.
- Wear a face covering over the nose and mouth at all times when in public settings with individuals from outside your household, especially where social distancing of greater than 6 feet cannot be maintained continuously.
- When engaging in activities where masks cannot be worn (e.g. during eating, swimming, etc.), individuals should plan to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance (preferably more) at all times.
- Engage in outdoor recreational activities with members of your household or with others if consistent with current public health guidance. When hiking, masks should be worn when passing other groups within 6 feet.
- Practice good hygiene when outdoors. Wash your hands, carry and use hand sanitizer, and sneeze and cough into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands.



What policies do I need to follow?

ACTIVITY	POLICY
Outdoor Gathering	Public carrying capacity defined by parking capacity; public guidance to stay 6' away from others and wear a mask when social distancing is not possible; capacity closures necessary when parking capacity is reached
Boat Launches	Open with public carrying capacity defined by parking capacity; public guidance to stay 6' away from others and wear a mask
Picnicking	Allowed with tables reinstalled; use dictated by outdoor gathering size and 6' social distancing
Beaches	Shoreline and Inland open with public guidance to stay 6' away from others in or out of the water
Lifeguards	Guarding at 8 inland and shoreline locations
Boardwalks/Trails	Open with 6' social distancing and mask guidance
Campgrounds	Traditional opening schedule; some limited inventory where showerhouse capacity is limiting; Reservation only with no outside visitors
Cabins	Open with varying policies across the system to accommodate cleaning protocols
Youth Group Camping	Open starting Memorial Day weekend with capacity limits dictated by outdoor gathering size
Educational Programming	Allowed with 6' social distancing and outdoor gathering limits
Indoor Gathering Guidance	Open with 50% capacity and maximum of 100 people; 11 p.m. curfew, masks and social distancing
Museums and Nature Centers	Open Memorial Day weekend, at 50% capacity and maximum of 100 people and 6' social distancing
Restrooms/Bathhouses	Open Memorial Day weekend, with public guidance to maintain 6' social distancing
Concessions	Open with 6' social distancing
Special Use Events- Indoor and Outdoor	Allowed following DECD and DPH Guidance; COVID protocols and plans required. Applications made between 60-45 days prior to event to assure compliance with current guidance

Any questions about this guidance should be referred to deep.stateparks@ct.gov. Any questions about COVID-19-related health issues associated with outdoor recreation activities should be referred to the Connecticut Department of Health, COVID19.DPH@ct.gov.

In an effort to ensure alignment with public health guidance, in response to COVID 19, operational changes may be necessary and policies subject to change.

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