

# WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

## *The Comeback*

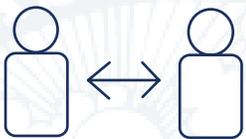


### Guidance for Parks and Playgrounds

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## Guidance for Parks and Playgrounds

Under Gov. Justice's reopening plan, **West Virginia Strong — The Comeback**, parks and playgrounds, to the extent they may have been limited, may resume or continue their operations. To facilitate the safe operation of these parks and playgrounds, Gov. Justice has issued the following guidance to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among visitors. These guidelines, in addition to any and all relevant guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) will help West Virginians safely enjoy parks and playgrounds. Any organization or public body which manages such parks or playgrounds are allowed and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols as they see fit.



**Note:** Effective as of July 7, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 50-20.

Per CDC Guidance, exempt from this requirement are:

- children younger than 2 years old,
- anyone who has trouble breathing through a face covering, and
- persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

As your facility and/or organization reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and post them throughout the park or playground. Communicating enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will make individuals feel more confident in your operations.

**Note Further:** Park and playground operators should consult and monitor relevant guidelines published by the CDC and other regulatory bodies, as applicable, to determine additional best practices specific to their facilities. See: [CDC Guidance for Parks and Playgrounds](#)

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures.

## GUIDANCE FOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

### OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS/REQUIREMENTS

- **Plan:** Develop and implement appropriate policies, in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and other relevant guidance, and informed by best practices for your specific park:
  - Prepare the grounds and any equipment for reopening;
  - Prepare your employees (e.g., maintenance staff or rangers), as applicable, for their return to work;
  - Create a social distancing plan to manage and reduce excessive contact and interaction among visitors and staff;
  - Reduce touch points to the maximum extent possible and plan for a reduction in the sharing of common spaces and equipment;
  - Increase cleaning frequency and the availability of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and other DIY cleaning products to ensure touch points and common elements are properly sanitized between each use;
  - Establish an open line of communication and provide visitors with the ability to report any safety concerns.
- **Occupancy:** Post signage or otherwise manage the number of visitors to ensure proper social distancing may be achieved and excessive interaction is limited to the maximum extent possible, in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- **Social Distancing and Equipment:** Implement strict social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between individuals who do not reside together to the greatest extent possible. Modify scheduling to reduce unnecessary or excessive interactions among campers.
- **PPE:** Per Executive Order 50-20, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to use face coverings (masks, bandannas, face shields, etc.) when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household. Encourage individuals to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including appropriate face coverings, to the greatest extent possible.
- **Cleaning:** Ensure that enough supplies and staff or maintenance crews are available to enable enhanced sanitization and cleaning measures in accordance with appropriate CDC guidelines. Strongly encourage, through signage or other means, visitors to bring their own hand sanitizer and to practice proper hand hygiene.
- **Common Elements and Touch points:** All common surfaces and other touch points which are commonly used and shared by visitors, including without limitation play equipment, swings, slides, benches, restrooms, water fountains, gate latches, should be cleaned and sanitized frequently, and visitors should be encouraged to wipe down any equipment before using or sharing.
- **Limitations on Facilities:** The following should be installed or remain closed or limited to the maximum extent possible:
  - Any food services or snack bars must be run in accordance with current orders and guidelines for restaurants, found at [governor.wv.gov](http://governor.wv.gov).
  - Restroom facilities should limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size and current social distancing guidelines and such facilities should be regularly cleaned/sanitized per CDC recommended protocols.
- **Hygiene:** Park or playground operators should provide hand sanitizer or hand washing stations to the greatest extent possible. Visitors should be encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and other cleaning materials to practice proper hand hygiene in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- **Plan:** Plan for potential COVID-19 cases and work with local health department officials when needed (i.e., monitor and trace COVID-19 cases, deep-clean facilities).

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- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the workplace to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
  - [CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
  - [CDC: Parks and Recreational Facilities](#)

