

# WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

## *The Comeback*

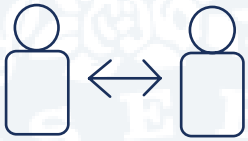


**A Guide to Safely Reopening  
Guided Fishing and Rock Climbing Services**

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## A Guide to Safely Reopening Guided Fishing and Rock Climbing Services

The guidance below is issued to all outdoor recreation outfitters offering guided fishing and/or rock climbing services who choose to resume operations. Guided fishing and rock climbing trips are allowed resume operations.



**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 business reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and discuss them with your employees and your customers. Communicating enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will make workers and patrons feel more confident in your business.

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in appropriate enforcement measures. All existing laws and guidelines issued by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources remains in effect.

## A GUIDE TO SAFELY REOPENING GUIDED FISHING AND ROCK CLIMBING SERVICES

### PATRON GUIDANCE

- **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. As applicable, require individuals wear appropriate face coverings and PPE. Outfitters are encouraged to provide all guests with masks upon arrival, if they do not already have them. Patrons should be encouraged to use cloth or disposable face coverings while on the premises.
- **Self-screening:** Encourage all patrons to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **Temperature checks:** Patrons are encouraged to take their temperature prior to arriving. If their temperature measures over 100 degrees, the patrons are not permitted.
- **Sick patrons:** Any patron or visitor who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) must leave immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines.
- **Physical distancing:** All patrons must practice proper social distancing, minimum of six (6) feet where practical and safe to do so.
- **Shared equipment:** Patrons are prohibited from sharing equipment with anyone outside their immediate group or party.

### OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE

- **Group size:** Total group size cannot exceed ten (10) individuals, and each small group may not exceed two (2) participants and one (1) guide.
- **Shuttles:** If applicable, all patrons must be offered the option of private transportation to the site. All individuals on the bus must wear face coverings, and vehicles must be properly sanitized after each use.
- **Reservations:** Where practical, implement a call-ahead reservation model for all guided trips and rental services.
- **Signage:** Post extensive signage on health policies, including the following documents in the facility to help educate all on COVID-19 best practices:
  - [CDC: Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
  - [CDC: COVID-19 Symptoms](#)
- **No entry:** Patrons are not permitted to enter or exit facilities except to access restrooms, check-in, check-out or make a payment. Mark ingress/egress to and from all facilities to establish paths that mitigate proximity for patrons and staff.
- **Outdoors:** Where possible, all check-out, check-in and payment processing should occur outdoors.
- **Limit contact with patrons:** Limit contact between employees and patrons as much as possible.
- **Hand sanitizer for patrons:** Provide hand sanitizer for use by patrons, including contactless hand sanitizing stations when available. Hand sanitizer must be available on vehicles and boats.
- **Food & Beverage Services:** Outfitters must follow Gov. Justice's most recent guidelines for restaurants. Individually-packaged lunches are encouraged, and buffets are prohibited.
  - [Click here to review restaurant guidelines.](#)

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### EMPLOYEE SAFETY

- **Screen employees:** Screen all employees reporting to work daily for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
  - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
  - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
  - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
  - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
  - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **Temperature checks:** Employees are encouraged to take their temperature prior to leaving for work. If their temperature measures over 100 degrees, the employee should notify management and not return to work that day and any future days when the temperature is over 100 degrees.
- **Sick employees:** Direct any employee who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) to leave the premises immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines. Employers should maintain the confidentiality of employee health information.
- **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. As applicable, employees must wear proper personal protection equipment (PPE), including cloth face coverings, when working on shared equipment and interacting with patrons.
- **Social distancing:** Employees should minimize contact with patrons as practical. Employees shall not congregate and should practice social distancing wherever practical and safe to do so.
- **Tracing:** Develop and implement policies and procedures for employee contact tracing following employee with a positive COVID-19 test and inform the local health department of such positive test and tracing.
- **Training:** Train all employees on the importance and expectation of increased frequency of handwashing, and the use of hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol; provide clear instruction to avoid touching hands to face.
- **Sanitization:** Disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer should be made available on vehicles and boats or shared spaces among employees. If disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer are unavailable, ensure an adequate supply of hand soap is available for employees.
- **At-risk individuals:** Consider special accommodations for employees that are members of a vulnerable population, like senior citizens or immunocompromised people, including encouraging teleworking to the maximum extent possible among other measures.

### CLEANING & SANITIZATION

- **Cleaning solutions:** Cleaning products and protocols shall include EPA-approved disinfectants that meet CDC requirements for use and effectiveness against viruses, bacteria and other airborne and bloodborne pathogens.
- **Pre-shift equipment cleaning:** Employees shall disinfect touch points on all equipment at the beginning of each shift and on a regular schedule throughout the day.
- **Workplace and equipment cleaning:** Implement workplace cleaning and disinfection practices including sanitizing common surfaces such as boats, fishing gear, coolers, seats, frames, personal flotation devices, ropes, belays, and vehicles at least every two hours or immediately after each use. For more information, please refer to the CDC guidelines on disinfecting public spaces.

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### COMMUNICATION

- **Online media:** Outfitters are encouraged to communicate new safety and social distancing measures to patrons through online mediums, including website, social media and email communication. Where applicable, questions from patrons are to be answered over the phone or through an online chat software to reduce face-to-face interaction.
- **Install barriers:** Where practicable, physical barriers such as partitions or plexiglass at cash registers or other areas of interaction.
- **Use technology:** Where practicable, use technological solutions to reduce person-to-person interaction for reservations and payment.

In addition to the specific guidelines for West Virginia guided fishing and rock climbing service providers above, businesses and their employees should be mindful of the more general guidance issued for small businesses and outdoor recreational outfitters, found at [governor.wv.gov](https://governor.wv.gov).

