

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

Public parks and playgrounds are currently not open as part of Governor Justice's plan, "West Virginia Strong: The Comeback." This guidance outlines what will be required of facilities regulated by local health departments once allowed to reopen. Check with your local health department if you have questions regarding the reopening status of your facility. All public parks and playgrounds permitted by the local health department must comply with 64 CSR 18 regarding general sanitation.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Virus can remain on surfaces for a limited time period. Although less common, transmission may occur from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

GENERAL PREVENTION

- Learn about COVID-19 from reputable sources.
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Encourage proper handwashing.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces often.
- Do not share food, drinks, etc.
- Wear cloth face coverings.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Isolate sick individuals.

PREVENTING SPREAD OF COVID-19

- Park administrators shall display posters and signs throughout the park to frequently remind visitors of ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages should include information about:
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well, and what to do if you're sick or feel ill.

PREVENTING COVID-19 continued

- Use social (physical) distancing and maintaining at least six feet between individuals in all areas of the park.
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throwing the tissue in the trash.
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Maintain at least 6 feet of distance between all patrons of park or playground.
- Monitor areas where people are likely to gather and consider temporary closures to support social distancing practices. These areas might include sports fields, playgrounds, skateparks, basketball courts, and picnic areas. In the event of facility closures, park administrators may place physical barriers in these areas and post [signs](#) communicating that the area is closed.
- Groups larger than 25 are prohibited from gathering.

FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

- Must follow any and all current guidelines and rules provided for operating.
- Patrons must practice social (physical) distancing and wear appropriate cloth masks or face coverings when receiving service.

RECREATIONAL WATER FACILITIES

- Must remain closed until allowed to reopen according to Governor's Plan.
- Must comply with [guidelines](#) established.

PAVILIONS AND SHELTERS (WHEN ALLOWED TO REOPEN)

- Group size is limited to 25 as specified in the Governor's Executive Order.
- Reservations for use of shelters and pavilions should be strongly encouraged.
- Post signage to enable patrons to contact facilities between uses.
- Need to be cleaned between groups.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS AND RESTROOMS WITH NO RUNNING WATER

- Clean restrooms as needed but at a minimum start of day, mid-day, and end of day.
- Include frequently touched surfaces like handles, levers, doorknobs, and feminine hygiene disposal boxes with fixture cleaning. Use the cleaning agents that are normally used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.
- Provide disposable wipes or paper towels so that a barrier can be placed between hands and commonly used surfaces.
- Post signage about patron health and COVID-19 prevention on doors along with handwashing reminders.
- Provide hand sanitizer for restrooms with no running water.
- Use approved disinfectant products:
 - [American Chemistry Council: Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
 - Dilute bleach solutions, made fresh daily:
 - 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water
 - 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water
 - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
- Mop floors with disinfectant, or bleach solution, at the frequency stated above.

USE OF CLOTH FACE MASKS AND COVERINGS

- CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face masks or coverings as a voluntary public health measure in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- For workers who do not typically wear face masks as part of their jobs, consider the following if you choose to use a cloth face covering to slow the spread of COVID-19.
 - Launder reusable face coverings before each daily use.
 - Provide CDC [information on the use of face coverings](#), including washing instructions and how to make them.
 - Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

NOTE: The cloth face coverings recommended by CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline:

1-800-887-4304

