

STAY SAFE MN



Outdoor Recreation and Facilities under Executive Order 21-01

Background

The following guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are for outdoor recreational activities under [Executive Order \(EO\) 21-01](#), which is effective beginning Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. Under this EO:

Outdoor recreational activities identified in EO 21-01 may be enjoyed in accordance with the EO and the guidelines below.

Authorized outdoor recreational facilities referenced in EO 21-01 may be open in accordance with the EO and the guidelines below.

These guidelines do not address:

- Organized youth and adult sports/athletics and nonmotorized recreational, competitive, and non-competitive races and similar events, which are subject to the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#). Please note that while practices are allowed, all organized youth and adult sports games, competitions, tournaments, races, spectator events, or other similar sports events are prohibited until January 14, 2021.
- Youth programming, subject to [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth and Student Programs](#) and [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) guidance](#).

- Recreational entertainment occurring at outdoor seated or non-seated venues (e.g., movies, concerts in the park, horse shows, mini-golf, amusement parks, etc.), which is subject to the [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#) for outdoor venues.
- Entertainment attractions (e.g. video arcades, games) at indoor facilities associated with outdoor recreation facilities, which are subject to the [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#) for indoor venues.
- Operation of public swimming pools, which is subject to the [Stay Safe Guidance for Reopening Swimming Pools and Aquatic Facilities](#).
- Food and beverage operations at outdoor recreation facilities, which are subject to the [Stay Safe Guidance for Safely Reopening Restaurants and Bars](#).

Please refer to EO 21-01 in addition to the referenced guidance documents for requirements regarding the above.

These DNR/MDH Outdoor Recreation Guidelines will be updated periodically, as needed.

GUIDELINES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

General Considerations

1. All outdoor recreational facilities that are authorized to be open must develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan to manage exposure to the virus. Facilities must ensure the Plan is evaluated, monitored, executed, and updated under the supervision of a designated Plan Administrator. Employers must ensure the Plan is posted at all workplaces in readily accessible locations that will allow for the Plan to be readily reviewed by all workers, as required. Please see the [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities](#).
2. While many outdoor recreational facilities are now open, Minnesotans are strongly discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel, particularly to other states or countries. Facilities should do their part to help patrons limit their travel – such as by providing basic supplies on site.
3. Facilities should regularly review the [Stay Safe Guidance for Businesses & Organizations](#), and [Stay Safe Guidance for Outdoor Recreation Entities](#) to ensure they are up-to-date on implementing safe workplace practices.
4. Place appropriate signage and other messaging on site at locations that can be easily seen by customers and visitors. Print materials are available online at [MDH Materials and Resources](#) and at [CDC Communication Resources](#).

Examples of messages:

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet at all times from others, except for members of the same household.
 - Follow face-covering requirements and guidelines.
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; if soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) should stay home and not engage in outdoor activities. For more information, see [CDC's What to Do If You Are Sick](#) and the State of Minnesota's [Self-Screening Tool](#).
5. Remind patrons to maintain social distancing and adhere to social gathering limits in outdoor common space.
 6. Adapt practices to ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people from different households.
 7. Follow Minnesota's face covering requirements. As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces in accordance with Executive Order 20-81. Additionally, workers are required to wear a face covering when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - The Executive Order includes exemptions for people who are unable to wear or tolerate a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or other reasons. There are also situations in which a face covering may be temporarily removed or where face coverings are not required. For example, a person may temporarily remove their face covering when presenting, eating, or communicating with an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired.
 - Face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required, for people participating in outdoor recreational activities when social distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain.
 - Face coverings **are NOT a replacement for social distancing**.
 - For more information see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81](#) and [MDH Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) .
 8. Outdoor recreation facilities may only provide food and beverage consistent with applicable licensing requirements and the [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurants and Bars](#). Onsite consumption is allowed subject to the limitations (e.g., capacity, hours of operation) in EO 21-01 and the [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurants and Bars](#).

Employees

1. Safe workplace practices include actively encouraging ill employees to notify their supervisor and stay home according to public health guidance.

2. Employees should use proper handwashing, observe respiratory etiquette, and avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools or equipment.
3. Just as facilities need to ensure that customers are following social distancing while on the premises, employees of the facilities also need to follow social distancing. This means maintaining a physical distance of at least 6 feet between individuals. **This distancing for employees should occur both inside buildings and outside, such as at trails, ski and sledding hills, ice-fishing areas, and other outdoor settings.**
4. Minimize face-to-face employee and customer interaction. Implement online or other contactless/ socially distanced measures to take reservations and payments, provide instruction, or sell supplies such as gas or bait.

Facility Access and Cleaning

1. Outdoor recreational facilities should only allow public access to any associated indoor facilities as allowed by EO 21-01. See also the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Businesses & Organizations](#) for more information.
 - While certain indoor facilities may be open to the public, they are not required to be open.
 - Local authorities may also limit activities or close facilities within their purview.
2. Any unsupervised indoor facility associated with an outdoor recreational facility that is open to the public (such as a warming house that is not continuously staffed while open) must clearly post the occupancy limit, social distancing and face covering requirements at all entrances. The facility operator should be prepared to close the facility (other than restrooms) if requirements are not followed. The occupancy limit must be set at 25% capacity up to a maximum of 150 people. If there is not an established capacity, the occupancy limit must be determined as follows:
 - Step 1: Determine the total area (in square feet) of space within the facility that is accessible to the public.
 - Step 2: Ensure all areas that are not accessible to patrons, including "worker only" areas, are not included within the total square footage number in Step 1.
 - Step 3: Divide the total area by 113 (i.e. 113 square-feet per person; [See US Fire Administration's Understanding the Impact of Social Distancing on Occupancy](#)).
 - Step 3: The resulting number is the **maximum** number of people that may be allowed in the facility at one time.
 - Facility operators may choose to post a lower occupancy limit to further aid social distancing.
 - This maximum number may be exceeded if all occupants are members of the same household. For example, if the calculation above provides a maximum number of 2 for a small warming house, a four-member household could still occupy the warming house as long as there are no persons from other households inside.

3. Ensure that employees and customers have access to handwashing/hand sanitizing facilities and supplies.
4. Surfaces such as doorknobs, counters, and other items that are high-touch should be regularly cleaned and sanitized. Follow [CDC's Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#) and [CDC's Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces](#).
5. **Clean and disinfect bathrooms regularly**, particularly high-touch surfaces, and ensure they have handwashing supplies. These [EPA-registered household disinfectants](#) are recommended by the CDC for cleaning.

Events, Guiding and Instruction

1. Postpone or cancel **indoor** social gatherings involving more than two households or 10 people, and **outdoor** social gatherings not otherwise addressed below involving more than three households or 15 people.

- Social gatherings are groups of people who are not members of the same household, congregated together for a common or coordinated social, community, or leisure purpose.



2. Organized youth and adult sports/athletics and nonmotorized recreational races/non-competitive similar events are subject to the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#).
3. Outdoor recreation events that are not addressed in item 2 above may be held if they meet the requirements below. (Note: All capacity/group-size limitations referenced below are inclusive of participants, organizers, officials and spectators and are the maximum allowed **with** social distancing.)
 - The event organizer develops an event-specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
 - All participants, organizers, officials and spectators follow Minnesota's face covering requirements.
 - Any events, or portions of events, that occur in an outdoor seated or non-seated venue where admission and occupancy can be controlled and predictable may occur subject to the capacity limits (25%, up to 250 people) and other requirements for seated or non-seated entertainment venues in EO 21-01 and the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#).
 - Any events occurring in an outdoor public area that is not an outdoor seated or non-seated venue must not involve gatherings of more than 15 people or members or more than three households in one location at the same time.

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- Virtual events -- e.g., a race or tournament where competitors participate individually, then upload their result (time, biggest catch, etc.) to a common site or e-mail as their competition entry -- are not subject to the outdoor recreation event capacity limitations provided that the event does not involve any in-person gatherings of more than 15 people or members or more than three households before, during, or after the event.
- Any support groups for event participants (such as a “pit crew” for a snowmobile racer) must avoid congregating and maintain social distancing with people from other households throughout the event.

The following examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. This is not an exhaustive list and activities may be subject to local restrictions, permitting requirements and/or additional Stay Safe MN guidance:

- An ice-fishing tournament that is conducted within a controlled perimeter and adheres to applicable venue capacity limits, with pre-drilled fishing holes to help ensure social distancing, and where any weigh-ins or awards ceremonies are conducted in a manner that allows social distancing to be maintained.
 - A golf event with staggered tee times or a shotgun start and a virtual, forward-seated in a venue, or otherwise modified awards ceremony to address gathering size limits with social distancing.
 - A snowmobile ride with staggered start times; a controlled perimeter with associated capacity limits or no check points/stations that would congregate more than 15 people or members of three households in one location at the same time; and a virtual, forward-seated in a venue, or otherwise modified awards ceremony.
4. Guided and instructional services (e.g., ice fishing or birding guides, snowmobile safety training) and outdoor workouts, training, and skill building not addressed in the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) are allowed if:
- the activity takes place entirely outside, or any indoor components of the activity allowed under EO 21-01 are modified to comply with the applicable Stay Safe guidance,
 - there are no more than 25 people and one coach or instructor in a group,
 - at least six feet of social distancing is maintained between people from different households throughout the activity,
 - if multiple groups are operating in a similar space or area, each group is physically separated from other groups by at least 12 feet at all times,
 - coaches, guides, instructors and participants/students follow all applicable face-covering requirements (see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81](#)), and

- spectators are strongly discouraged—if spectators must attend, the requirements of the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#) must be followed. Consider limiting any spectators to one per participant.

Charter and Launch Boats

1. Charter and launch boats must adopt a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in accordance with the [Guidance for Charter and Launch Boats](#) in order to operate.

Equipment Rental and Transportation Services

1. Rental of outdoor recreational equipment is allowed. Facilities must implement clear check-in and check-out procedures that minimize contact between customers and workers, and reservation or other procedures that help avoid people from multiple households congregating while waiting for rental equipment.
 - Limit rental of equipment that does not allow for 6 feet of social distancing – such as an ice fishing shelter, sled/snow tube, or a two-seat (i.e., 2-up) snowmobile – to people from the same household.
 - Follow the [MDH Interim Guidance for Hotel Managers and Owners](#) for cleaning live-aboard rental equipment such as ice houses, houseboats or RVs. Only rent such equipment to members of the same household.
 - Any instruction on the operation or use of rental equipment must be provided in a manner that complies with face covering and social distancing requirements.
2. Transportation services to and from authorized outdoor recreational activities, such as on-ice transport to an ice-fishing area, must follow the [COVID-19 Transportation, Distribution, and Delivery Services](#) guidelines and adhere to the following additional requirements:
 - Limit the occupants within a vehicle to only the number and arrangement that allows for 6 feet of physical distance between the driver and all passengers, and between all passengers from different households. This means that a smaller transport vehicle will only allow for passengers from a single household, while a larger transport (e.g., shuttle bus) may allow multiple households at reduced capacity to allow for sufficient spacing. When in doubt, single household passengers only.
 - Deploy an open-air transport vehicle if available (e.g., tram, open-sided bus).
 - Remind passengers to wear a face covering while in the vehicle. The driver must wear a face covering, as well.
 - Use the vehicle’s ventilation system and windows to exchange fresh-air in from outside the vehicle.
 - Do not allow people from different households to share a two-person vehicle, such as a 2-up snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle (ATV).

Marinas and Docks

1. Public and private marinas and docks may provide storage, docking, and mooring services to slip owners, seasonal renters or the general public. This includes the ability for boaters to purchase fuel, use access ramps, or purchase/receive services otherwise authorized by the [Stay Safe MN Plan](#). Any food and beverage offerings must be consistent with applicable licensing requirements and the [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurants and Bars](#). Onsite consumption is allowed subject to the limitations (e.g., capacity, hours of operation) in EO 21-01 and the [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurants and Bars](#).

Camping

1. Private and public developed campgrounds may be open for recreational camping if they develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan consistent with the [Guidance for Safely Reopening Campgrounds](#). Dispersed or remote camping sites may also be open for recreational camping.
 - A dispersed campsite is a single campsite, not in a developed campground, used for overnight camping.
 - A remote campsite is a designated backpack or watercraft campsite, not in a developed campground, used for overnight camping.
2. Campgrounds should advise patrons that no more than three households and 15 people total are allowed to share a campsite at this time, with social distancing between people from different households. Campsites must be limited to use by members of a single household if it is not possible to maintain social distance between people from different households.

For More Information

If you have questions about what outdoor recreational facilities are currently authorized or the information in these guidelines, please [email us](#). Please note: we will not be responding to inquiries or requests about potential future changes to restrictions and requirements for outdoor recreation and facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, please see [Stay Safe MN](#) for information about reopening various business and social settings not addressed here.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PUBLIC

Time spent outside provides many benefits. We encourage outdoor recreation as a good way to stay healthy, reduce stress, and enjoy time with family. However, it is essential to follow the guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health (see [Protecting Yourself and Your Family](#) and [Strategies to Slow the Spread](#)) and the Centers for Disease Control (see [Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities](#)) and observe the following practices while recreating outdoors to protect yourself and others and slow the spread of COVID-19:



General Considerations

1. Consistent with state and federal guidance to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect our neighbors, Minnesotans are strongly discouraged from unnecessary travel, particularly to other states or countries. If in-state travel is necessary to engage in authorized outdoor recreation, the following will help you minimize potential points of virus transmission:
 - Travel as directly to your destination as possible and minimize stops along the way.
 - Attempt to bring all needed supplies with you.
 - If you do need to stop for gas or supplies, wear a manufactured or homemade cloth face covering.
 - Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer after touching common surfaces (gas pumps, door handles, shared bathrooms, etc.).
 - Do not travel if sick.
2. Explore the range of nearby public lands available to you. If you arrive at a park, playground, ski trail, lake or other public recreation land and see that it is busy, choose a different option. This will allow you to maintain social distancing and reduce impacts on staff and resources. Also, consider visiting at off-peak times, such as mid-week, or early or late in the day on a weekend.
3. Respect signs limiting access or providing temporary direction regarding facility, trail or site usage. The same goes for time limits (such as on the use of warming houses or seating areas) to allow others to also benefit from those amenities/facilities.
4. Be aware that facilities you may have used in the past – including warming houses and visitor centers – may not be open at this time. Be sure to dress appropriately for the weather, call ahead or visit applicable websites so you are aware of what to expect, and be as self-sufficient as possible. For DNR-managed parks and lands, consult the [DNR website](#) or call the DNR information center (651-296-6157 or 888-MINNDNR (888-646-6367)).
 - Keep in mind that you may need to rely on your vehicle for warming, putting on outdoor gear/equipment, and gear storage.

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- Consider bringing snacks and water with you.
5. If you rent recreational equipment – such as a bicycle or snowboard – consider bringing your own protective gear like a helmet. Only share rented equipment that does not allow for 6 feet of social distancing – such as an ice fishing shelter, sled/snow tube, or a two-seat (i.e., 2-up) snowmobile – with people from your household.
 6. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry. Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 7. Anyone with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (including fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) should stay home and not engage in outdoor activities. For more information see [CDC's What to Do If You Are Sick](#) and the State of Minnesota's [Self-Screening Tool](#).
 8. Follow Minnesota's face covering requirements. As of July 25, 2020, people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and indoor businesses in accordance with [Executive Order 20-81](#). Additionally, workers are required to wear a face covering when working outdoors in situations where social distancing cannot be maintained.
 - The Executive Order includes exemptions for people who are unable to wear or tolerate a face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or other reasons. There are also situations in which a face covering may be temporarily removed or where face coverings are not required. For example, a person may temporarily remove their face covering when presenting, eating, or communicating with an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired.
 - Face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required, for people participating in outdoor recreational activities when social distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain.
 - As we head into the colder months, be sure to bring an extra face covering with you so you have a dry one if yours gets wet or icy during outdoor recreation.
 - Face coverings **are NOT a replacement for social distancing**.
 - For more information about face covering requirements and exemptions see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81](#) and [MDH Facemasks and Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#).
 9. Please note that while outdoor activities consistent with the Stay Safe MN Plan and these guidelines are allowed, associated outdoor recreation facilities are not required to open, nor are there restrictions on the ability for local authorities to limit activities or close facilities within their purview. Before visiting an outdoor recreational facility, be sure to check with the owner/operator to confirm it is open and your intended activity is allowed.

Social Distancing and Gatherings while Recreating Outdoors

1. Practice social distancing (stay at least 6 feet from people from other households). This isn't just for parks and trails – it is also essential at sledding hills, ski areas (including chair lifts and gondolas) hunting lands, and anytime you leave your home.
2. “Household” means all the people living in the same home or residence, including a shared rental unit or other similar living space. This includes college-aged children who return home over a weekend, holiday or break. Students returning home for school breaks are strongly encouraged to follow the recommendations available at [MDH's Institutes of Higher Education website](#).
3. If it is not possible to maintain social distancing **throughout** an outdoor recreational activity then you may only participate in that activity with members of your household. Note: please see the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) for social distancing requirements applicable to organized sports, which are not addressed in these guidelines.
4. Social gatherings are limited by EO 21-01 as follows:
 - Indoor social gatherings involving no more than two households, up to a maximum of 10 people, are allowed as long as members of different households maintain at least six feet of separation from each other, and participants adhere to additional precautions in the [Stay Safe Minnesota](#) website.
 - Outdoor social gatherings involving not more than three households, up to a maximum of 15 people, are allowed as long as members of different households maintain at least six feet of separation from each other, and participants adhere to the additional precautions in these guidelines and on the [Stay Safe Minnesota](#) website. This includes gatherings like outdoor bonfires and cookouts, because those types of gatherings could spread COVID-19.
 - Social gatherings are groups of people who are not members of the same household, congregated together for a common or coordinated social, community, or leisure purpose.
5. Do not carpool to outdoor recreational activities with people other than those in your household.
6. Avoid congregating in common areas like trailheads, parking areas, overlooks, playgrounds or fueling stations.
7. Follow all occupancy limits, including time limits, for any indoor or outdoor facilities that are open to the public.
8. Avoid gathering around heaters, bonfires, trail shelters, or other warming stations with more than three households or more than 15 people, even if social distancing can be maintained. Also keep in mind that warming facilities may not be available, so dress for the weather and be prepared with your own warming strategy.

Outdoor Events, Guiding and Instruction

1. Organized youth and adult sports/athletics and nonmotorized recreational races/non-competitive similar events are not addressed in these guidelines; please see instead the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#).

2. Guided or instructional services (e.g., icefishing or birding guides, snowmobile safety training) and outdoor athletic workouts, training and skill building not addressed in the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) are allowed if:
 - the activity takes place entirely outside, or any indoor components of the activity allowed under EO 21-01 are modified to comply with the applicable Stay Safe guidance,
 - there are no more than 25 people and one coach or instructor in a group,
 - at least six feet of social distancing is maintained between people from different households throughout the activity,
 - if multiple groups are operating in a similar space or area, each group is physically separated from other groups by at least 12 feet at all times,
 - coaches, instructors and participants/students follow all applicable face-covering requirements (see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81](#)), and
 - spectators are strongly discouraged—if spectators must attend, the requirements of the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#) must be followed. Consider limiting any spectators to one per participant.

3. Only engage in tournaments, leagues and other outdoor recreation events not addressed in items 1 through 3 immediately above that meet the following requirements:
 - The event organizer develops an event-specific COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.
 - Participants, organizers, officials and spectators are able to maintain social distancing throughout the event and follow Minnesota's face covering requirements.
 - The event does not involve gatherings of more than 15 people or members of more than 3 households – inclusive of participants, organizers, officials and spectators– in one place at a time if the event occurs in an outdoor public area that is not a seated or non-seated venue (i.e. where admission and occupancy can be controlled and are predictable).
 - The event adheres to the capacity limits (25%, up to 250 people) and other requirements for seated or non-seated entertainment venues in EO 21-01 and the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Entertainment](#) if it occurs in an outdoor venue.
 - Note: Virtual events -- e.g., a race or tournament where competitors participate individually, then upload their result (time, biggest catch, etc.) to a common site or e-mail as their competition entry -- are not subject to the outdoor recreation event capacity limitations provided that the event does not involve any in-person gatherings of more than 15 people or members or more than three households before, during, or after the event.

The following examples are provided for illustrative purposes only. This is not an exhaustive list and activities may be subject to local restrictions, permitting requirements and/or additional Stay Safe MN guidance:

- An ice-fishing tournament that is conducted within a controlled perimeter and adheres to applicable venue capacity limits, with pre-drilled fishing holes to help ensure social distancing, and where any weigh-ins or awards ceremonies are conducted in a manner that allows social distancing to be maintained.
- A golf event with staggered tee times or a shotgun start and a virtual, forward-seated in a venue, or otherwise modified awards ceremony to address gathering size limits with social distancing.
- A snowmobile ride with staggered start times; a controlled perimeter with associated capacity limits or no check points/stations that would congregate more than 15 people or members of three households in one location at the same time; and a virtual, forward-seated in a venue, or otherwise modified awards ceremony.

Ice Fishing

1. When ice fishing:
 - Do not share an ice house or ice fishing shelter with those outside of your household.
 - Maintain a minimum six-foot distance between people from different households at all times.



Skating, Skiing, Sledding/Tubing, Snowmobiling

1. Portions of indoor facilities used as warming spaces might be closed at this time. Be sure to call ahead or check on-line, dress for the weather, and be prepared to meet your own warming needs (e.g., proper gear, using your vehicle as a warming station, etc.).
2. Take care to maintain social distancing when waiting in areas such as a sledding hill or ski lift. This includes taking turns to avoid congestion at the bottom of the hill, as well as maintaining social distance on a tow rope or “magic carpet” on the way up the hill.
3. Do not share equipment that does not allow for 6 feet of social distancing with someone outside of your household, with the exception that participants from the same “pod” engaging in organized youth/adult sports may share equipment (see [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#)).

Camping

1. While campgrounds and camping sites are allowed to be open, they might not actually be open due to staffing limitations or other considerations. Be sure to check if a specific facility is actually open before heading there to camp.
2. Know before you go. Some bathrooms or shower buildings may not be open; most Minnesota DNR visitor centers, ranger stations and trailhead buildings are closed at this time. Check online resources or call ahead so you know what to expect when you arrive.

3. Do not share a campsite or campfire with more than three households or 15 people, or fewer as necessary to ensure social distancing. If it is not possible to maintain social distancing with people from different households, only share with members of your own household.
4. To help ensure a safe and enjoyable camping experience for you and others:
 - Plan ahead. When you are able, make reservations and purchase permits, firewood, and other items online or by phone before you arrive on site.
 - Be self-sufficient. For example, arrive prepared for the weather you may encounter, and bring your own disinfectant supplies, hand sanitizer, face covering, paper towels/hand towels and toilet paper, in case these necessities are not available onsite.
 - Maintain social distancing and avoid gatherings of more than three households or 15 people total. Set up your campsite—sleeping, campfire and eating areas—to maximize distance from adjacent campsites that host people from different households. Social distancing is also important at bathrooms, trails and any other areas where you may encounter people from different households.
 - Follow all campground rules and instructions, whether given in writing or verbally.

Summary

We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves and fellow Minnesotans from the COVID-19 health threat. By following the Stay Safe MN Plan and these guidelines, we can enjoy the many benefits of the outdoors while providing for public health, slowing the spread of COVID-19, and decreasing the strain on local communities and health care systems in Minnesota.

For More Information

Do you have questions about the information provided here? [Email us](#). Please see [Stay Safe MN](#) for information about reopening various business and social settings not addressed here.

Resources

EPA-approved Cleaning and Disinfecting Supplies and Procedures – [epa.gov/coronavirus/guidance-cleaning-and-disinfecting-public-spaces-workplaces-businesses-schools-and-homes](https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/guidance-cleaning-and-disinfecting-public-spaces-workplaces-businesses-schools-and-homes)

Interim Guidance for Hotel Managers and Owners – health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/lodgingcleaning.pdf

Minnesota Department of Health – health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html

National Park Service Coronavirus Updates – [nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm](https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/news/public-health-update.htm)

National Recreation and Park Association – [nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019](https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019)

State of Minnesota Executive Orders – [mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp](https://www.mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp)

OUTDOOR RECREATION, FACILITIES AND PUBLIC GUIDELINES

State of Minnesota Symptom Screener – mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/is-it-covid

Stay Safe MN – <https://staysafe.mn.gov/>

Information for Individuals and Families – <https://staysafe.mn.gov/individuals-families/index.jsp>

Information for Businesses and Organizations – <https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp>

U.S. Forest Service Coronavirus Updates – fs.usda.gov/about-agency/covid19-updates

CDC Communication Resources – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html

CDC's Guidance on Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility – www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html

US Coast Guard COVID-19 Information – www.uscg.mil/coronavirus



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Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000
625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Contact info.dnr@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.

1/8/21