



MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

WORKPLACE SAFETY and REOPENING STANDARDS FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING BUSINESSES

May 18, 2020

INTRODUCTION

On May 18, 2020, Governor Baker issued *COVID-19 Order No. 33: Order Implementing a Phased Reopening of Workplaces and Imposing Workplace Safety Measures to Address COVID-19*, implementing a phased reopening of workplaces and imposing workplace safety measures to address COVID-19. That same day, he issued *COVID-19 Order No. 34: Order Expanding Access to and Use of State Beaches and Addressing Other Outdoor Recreational Activities*, which directed the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to “issue guidance for the implementation of generally applicable COVID-19 workplace standards by operators of and participants in outdoor recreational activities.”

This document provides guidance for recreational boating businesses, operators and employees on how to implement those general workplace safety standards and other public health guidance (“COVID-19 measures”) in the context of their outdoor recreational operations in the first phase (“Phase 1”) of the Commonwealth’s reopening. Operators who fail to implement applicable COVID-19 measures may be sanctioned in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 33. Operators are further reminded that in addition to implementing COVID-19 measures in Phase 1, they must still comply with all federal, state and local laws.

The public health data and guidance on which this document is based can and does change frequently. The most recent version of this document can be found on the Commonwealth’s website, <http://www.mass.gov/>

Any questions regarding this guidance can be sent to outdoor.recreation@mass.gov

LIMITATIONS ON OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

COVID-19 Order No. 33 permits certain outdoor recreational activities and facilities to resume operations on May 25, 2020, provided that those operations meet safety standards and comply with the terms and conditions of the Order.

With respect to recreational boating, the Order provides that recreational boating facilities, solely for the purpose of enabling recreational boating, including rowing and sailing facilities, yacht clubs, boat clubs and boat rentals may be open in Phase 1; provided, however, that the occupants of a vessel be limited to a single household group and that no more than ten people are aboard a single vessel at any one time.

In addition to complying with the aforementioned limitations, operators must implement the following safety measures detailed below.



IMPLEMENTING SAFETY MEASURES FOR YOUR OPERATION

COVID-19 Order No. 33 organizes safety measures into four distinct categories, social distancing, hygiene protocols, staffing and operations, and cleaning and disinfecting. Recreational boating facilities must ensure that the following COVID-19 Measures to protect consumers and employees.

Social Distancing	• All persons, including employees, customers, and vendors should remain at least six feet apart to the greatest extent possible, both inside and outside workplaces • Establish protocols to ensure that employees can practice adequate social distancing • Provide signage for safe social distancing • Require face coverings or masks for all employees and customers
Hygiene Protocols	• Provide hand-washing capabilities throughout the workplace • Ensure frequent hand washing by employees and adequate supplies to do so • Provide regular sanitization of high touch areas, such as workstations, equipment, screens, doorknobs, restrooms throughout work site
Staffing and Operations	• Provide training for employees regarding the social distancing and hygiene protocols • Employees who are displaying COVID-19-like symptoms do not report to work • Establish a plan for employees getting ill from COVID-19 at work, and a return-to-work plan
Cleaning and Disinfecting	• Establish and maintain cleaning protocols specific to the business • When an active employee is diagnosed with COVID-19, cleaning and disinfecting must be performed • Disinfection of all common surfaces must take place at intervals appropriate to said workplace

The application of these measures to for recreational boating is detailed below.

I. Social Distancing

- ❖ Docks are to be used to facilitate boating access only. On dock gatherings are prohibited under any circumstances
- ❖ Common areas such as gazebos, picnic areas, pools and other areas where people are likely to congregate are closed for Phase 1
- ❖ Organized events, on or off the water, are not permitted
- ❖ Where social distancing is not possible, only persons from the same household should be together on any boat at one time
- ❖ No more than 10 people may be in a boat at one time
- ❖ Fuel dock operators shall keep vessels spaced on the fuel dock at least 6 feet apart



- ❖ Lunch and break times for staff shall be staggered, regulating maximum number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing during any meeting
- ❖ Face coverings are required for all workers, except where doing so may introduce a safety hazard to workers or where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. Face coverings are required for all customers when social distancing is not possible
- ❖ Minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., elevators, control rooms, on-shore vehicles) by more than one individual at a time; all employees and customers in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings
- ❖ For launch boats, the captain, staff and patrons must keep at least 6 feet apart and wear proper face coverings or PPE including disposable gloves, eye/face protection. If social distancing cannot be accomplished in a single trip, then separate trips must occur to adhere to the 6 feet social distancing requirement. If possible and practical, install Plexiglass shield behind driver
- ❖ For dinghy docks, all dinghies must wait for dinghy dock to be clear of any and all persons before approaching
- ❖ Yacht club/boat club staff should not assist boaters with launch/retrieval or boat readiness except as necessary for ADA compliance. Staff should limit interactions with boaters as possible
- ❖ Safety boats at community rowing and boating facilities, boat ramps and canoe launches shall be operated by only one person, unless six-foot social distancing can be maintained by a crew of more than one
- ❖ Remote and credit-card transactions are encouraged

II. Hygiene Protocols

- ❖ Ensure access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, and allow sufficient break time for employees to wash hands to frequently; alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol may be used as an alternative
- ❖ Employees should wear gloves as appropriate and when touching shared equipment.
- ❖ Paperwork should be handled electronically to the maximum extent possible
- ❖ Employers must supply employees at workplace location with adequate cleaning products (e.g., sanitizer, disinfecting wipes) to sanitize shared equipment and touch surfaces
- ❖ Post visible signage throughout the site to remind employees of the hygiene and safety protocols, including regular hand washing
- ❖ Require regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms

III. Staffing and Operations

- ❖ Provide training to workers on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission



- ❖ Limit visitors and service providers on site; shipping and deliveries should be completed in designated areas, outside the facility if possible
- ❖ Log all persons who are present at site for any duration, including customers, to enable contact tracing
- ❖ Employees must stay home if feeling ill
- ❖ Employees who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home
- ❖ Encourage employees to self-identify symptoms or any close contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case to the employer
- ❖ Employees who test positive for COVID-19 are encouraged to disclose to the employer for purposes of cleaning/disinfecting and contact tracing
- ❖ Employers must post notice to employees, workers, and customers of important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in CDC and DPH guidelines

IV. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- ❖ Employers are required to conduct regular and not less than daily cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as workstations, door handles, and restrooms. Restrooms should be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with the EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices
- ❖ Launch boats must be disinfected after every trip. Tips should be deposited in a box that can be disinfected prior to retrieval
- ❖ Pump-out stations should be sanitized after each use. Vessel pump out port areas should be sanitized after the pump out
- ❖ Boat rental facilities, boat clubs, community-based rowing and sailing facility operators and other operators who offer shared equipment should disinfect all watercraft, shells, safety boats and equipment after each use
- ❖ Employers should keep cleaning logs that include date, time, and scope of cleaning
- ❖ Conduct frequent disinfecting of heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, bathrooms)
- ❖ In event of a positive case, employers must shut down site for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance