

STAY SAFE MN



Outdoor Recreation and Facilities under Executive Order 20-99

Background

The following guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) are for outdoor recreational activities during the four-week period specified in Executive Order (EO) 20-99 (from Friday, November 20, 2020 at 11:59 pm through Friday, December 18, 2020 at 11:59 pm). During this period:

- **Outdoor recreational activities** identified in EO 20-99 may be enjoyed in accordance with the EO and the guidelines below.
- **Authorized outdoor recreational facilities** referenced in EO 20-99 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](#).
- 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 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](#).
- Operation of public swimming pools, which are subject to the [Stay Safe Guidance for Reopening Swimming Pools and Aquatic Facilities](#).
- Food and beverage operations at outdoor recreation facilities, which are limited to take-out only. Please see the [Stay Safe Guidance for Safely Reopening Restaurants and Bars](#) for more information.

Please refer to EO 20-99 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. Minnesotans are discouraged from engaging in unnecessary travel; further, EO 20- 99 recommends no out-of-state travel at this time. 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.
 - 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 about social distancing and to refrain from gathering in outdoor common space.
 6. Adapt practices to ensure physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people from different households. For example:
 - Only allow people from the same household to share a chair lift or gondola at a ski hill and ensure social distancing at tow-ropes and “magic carpets”. This may require reducing the overall capacity of the facility to avoid over-long lines.
 - Space pre-drilled outdoor ice-fishing holes 10 feet or more apart for anglers from different households, and only allow people from the same household to share an ice-fishing shelter.
 - Limit the use of outdoor heaters or warming stations to only people from the same household or discontinue their use.
 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 as take-out, curb side, delivery, or other similar methods provided such offerings are consistent with applicable licensing requirements and the [Stay Safe Guidance for Restaurants and Bars](#). Onsite consumption is prohibited.

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 20-99. See also the applicable [Stay Safe Guidance for Businesses & Organizations](#) for more information.
2. Ensure that employees and customers have access to handwashing/hand sanitizing facilities and supplies.
3. 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](#).
4. **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 or outdoor social gatherings and events that involve people from more than one household between 11:59 pm on November 20, 2020 to 11:59 pm on December 18, 2020.
2. Guided or instructional services (e.g., ice fishing or birding guides) are allowed if the service is provided entirely outside, social distancing is maintained throughout the activity, any client group only includes members of the same household, there is



not shared transportation to/from or during the activity, and any shared equipment is sanitized between uses. Service providers and clients must follow face-covering requirements (see [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations under Executive Order 20-81](#)).

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.
 - When renting an item that can typically be used by more than one person at a time, such as an ice shelter or a two seat (i.e., 2-up) snowmobile, only rent 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 limited to offsite consumption.

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 only people from the same household are allowed to share a campsite at this time.

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 discouraged from unnecessary travel; in particular, EO 20-99 recommends no out-of-state travel at this time. 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 trail or site usage.
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 likely will need to rely on your vehicle for warming, putting on outdoor gear/equipment, and gear storage.
 - Consider bringing snacks and water with you, as food-service (other than take-out) will not be open.
5. If you rent recreational equipment – such as a bicycle or snowboard – consider bringing your own protective gear like a helmet. Only share equipment – including ride-aboard equipment like a 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. Many associated indoor recreation facilities are required to be closed for the next four weeks under EO 20-99. 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 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.
4. Social gatherings with people who are not members of the same household are prohibited for four weeks by EO 20-99. 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 – even if social distancing can be maintained.

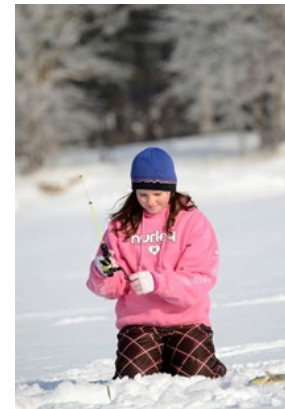
5. Do not carpool to outdoor recreational activities with people other than those in your household.
6. Avoid congregating in common areas like trailheads, parking areas, overlooks, playgrounds or fueling stations.
7. Avoid gathering around heaters, bonfires, trail shelters, or other warming stations with people from other households. Also keep in mind that single household-adapted warming facilities may not be available, so dress for the weather and be prepared with your own warming strategy.

Outdoor Competitions, Gatherings and Guiding

1. Outdoor recreation events, group classes, competitions, and gatherings of any size that involve people from different households are not allowed at this time. This includes gatherings like outdoor bonfires and cookouts, because those types of gatherings could spread COVID-19.
2. Guided or instructional services (e.g., ice fishing or birding guides) are allowed if the service is provided entirely outside, social distancing is maintained throughout the activity, any client group only includes members of the same household, and there is not shared transportation to/from or during the activity.
3. Organized youth and adult sports/athletics and nonmotorized recreational races/non-competitive similar events are not allowed at this time. These events are not addressed in these guidelines; please see the [COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults](#) for further details. Professional and collegiate sports are also not addressed in these guidelines.

Ice Fishing

1. When ice fishing:
 - Only share an ice house, ice shelter or fishing hole with those in 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, such as trail centers, chalets, and warming houses, are closed at this time. Be sure to 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. Only share a chair lift, gondola or two-person snowmobile with someone from your own household.

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; 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. Only share a campsite or campfire with people from your 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 gathering with people from different households. 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 StaySafe 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 [StaySafe 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

National Recreation and Park Association – nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/coronavirus-disease-2019

State of Minnesota Executive Orders – mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp

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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