

# 2021 New Normal Health & Safety Guidelines

## for Connecticut State Parks and Boat Launches

### What's open when?

State Park and Forest recreation areas are planning to return to providing full services to our visitors during the 2021 season.

Most park buildings, museums, nature centers and other enclosed structures, including restrooms, will be opened on Memorial Day weekend. When possible, DEEP requests that visitors try to maintain social distancing from individuals outside of their own household while inside park buildings, along with adhering to face mask wearing requirements. Visitors who do not abide by these rules may be asked to leave state park property.

### What's the best way to stay safe?

#### If you are not feeling well, stay home!

- Fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a face mask outdoors. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face mask outdoors when social distancing is not possible. In indoor spaces (bathhouses, visitor centers, etc.) we will continue to require all guests to wear face masks, regardless of vaccine status.
- Practice good hygiene when outdoors. Wash your hands, carry and use hand sanitizer, and sneeze and cough into a tissue or your elbow, not your hands.



## What policies do I need to follow?

ACTIVITY	POLICY
<b>Outdoor Gathering</b>	Return to normal (pre-COVID) park capacity limits. Fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a face mask outdoors. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face mask outdoors when social distancing is not possible.
<b>Boat Launches</b>	Return to normal (pre-COVID) parking capacity limits. Fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a face mask outdoors. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face mask outdoors when social distancing is not possible.
<b>Picnicking</b>	Picnicking is allowed, with tables reinstalled.
<b>Beaches</b>	Shoreline and Inland open with public guidance to social distance from others in or out of the water.
<b>Lifeguards</b>	Lifeguards will be in place at 6 or 7 shoreline and inland parks. The number of days per week that lifeguards are present will depend on staff availability.
<b>Boardwalks/Trails</b>	Open. Fully vaccinated visitors are not required to wear a face mask on trails and boardwalks. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated should continue to wear a face mask outdoors when social distancing is not possible.
<b>Campgrounds</b>	Traditional opening schedule. Reservation system is open and available to take campsite reservations for the coming season.
<b>Cabins</b>	Open. Reservation system is open and available to take cabin reservations for the coming season.
<b>Youth Group Camping</b>	Open. Youth group, backpacking and river camping sites are open and available for reservation (which are required).
<b>Educational Programming</b>	Allowed with social distancing and outdoor gathering limits. Boating education certification courses will continue to be offered on an interactive videoconferencing platform pursuant to Executive order 7JJ. In-person classroom courses will resume when authorization has been granted.
<b>Indoor Gathering</b>	Open. Face masks required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
<b>Museums and Nature Centers</b>	Open with limited capacities to assure adequate social distancing. Face masks required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
<b>Restrooms/Bathhouses</b>	Open. Face masks required indoors regardless of vaccination status.
<b>Concessions</b>	Open with social distancing.
<b>Special Use Events- Indoor and Outdoor</b>	Allowed following DECD and DPH Guidance; COVID protocols and plans are encouraged and may be required depending on the type of event. Applications may be submitted no earlier than six months prior to the scheduled event to assure compliance with current guidance. Applications will not be accepted if they are received less than 60 days prior to the scheduled event.

Any questions about this guidance should be referred to [deep.stateparks@ct.gov](mailto:deep.stateparks@ct.gov). Any questions about COVID-19-related health issues associated with outdoor recreation activities should be referred to the Connecticut Department of Health, [COVID19.DPH@ct.gov](mailto:COVID19.DPH@ct.gov). In an effort to ensure alignment with public health guidance, in response to COVID 19, operational changes may be necessary and policies subject to change. *Content last updated October, 2021.*

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