Health and Safety Standards for Indoor and Outdoor High-Touch Amusement and Recreation Activities
***rev.* May 19, 2021**

Governor Murphy issued Executive Order No. 157 (2020) allowing outdoor recreation businesses, including outdoor water parks and amusement parks, to resume operations. Executive Order No. 181 (2020) allowed indoor amusement parks to resume operations.

Water parks must also adhere to the requirements of Executive Order No. 153 (2020), Executive Order 157 (2020) and the Executive Directive 20-031 Health and Safety Standards for Pools and Aquatic Recreation Facilities."

Facilities must adhere to employee and visitor screening requirements of Executive Order 192 (2020) Protecting New Jersey's Workforce During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

These standards are intended for establishments operating high-touch amusement and recreation activities. Examples of establishments falling into this category include amusement parks, theme parks and water parks. They include outdoor and indoor facilities.

These facilities are subject to the indoor and outdoor capacity requirements outlined in Executive Order No. 239 (2021), which notes that both indoor and outdoor areas are no longer subject to any percentage-based capacity limitations and must instead limit occupancy to a number that ensures that all patrons or groups of patrons entering the facility together can remain six feet apart.

Executive Order No. 241 (2021) amended outdoor masking requirements. Individuals are no longer required to wear masks in these outdoor settings, though unvaccinated individuals are strongly encouraged to do so.

High-touch amusement and recreation establishments are to adhere to the protocols listed below:

Promote Healthy Behaviors

- Educate staff and patrons about when they should stay home (if exposed to COVID-19) or isolate (if ill or infected with that virus that causes COVID-19) and when they can return to the venue.

- Social (or Physical) Distancing
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- Staff and patrons should stay at least 6 feet (a few inches longer than a typical pool noodle, both in and out of the water) away from people they don't live with. This includes not gathering at the ends of swim lanes, behind starting blocks, or on stairs into the water or up to the diving board.
- **Exceptions to social distancing should be made to rescue a distressed swimmer; perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), or to provide first aid.**
- Anticipate lines forming for attractions, rides, and at points of sale and ensure 6 feet or more feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
- Adjust seating on amusement rides to accommodate 6 feet of distance (e.g., seating every other ride vehicle, except in the case of same family/household groupings, limiting capacity on a ride to allow for space between unrelated family groups).
- Implement social distancing signage, floor decals or ground markings, and/or video/audio announcements, particularly where individuals may form a line. Consider alternative queuing methods where possible to manage crowds and facilitate social distancing.
- For venues operating parking lot trams, use modified seating arrangements to allow for appropriate social distancing.

- Face Masks
  - Require staff and attendees to wear, at minimum, a masks/face covering at all times in indoor areas except when doing so would inhibit the individual's health, such aswhen in the water, eating or drinking and in other situations where the presence of a mask would pose a risk to the individual's health or where theindividual is under two years of age.
  - Encourage unvaccinated individuals to wear masks in outdoor areas.
  - Advise staff and patrons wearing face masks not to wear them in the water. A wet facemask can make it difficult to breathe and likely will not work correctly. Encourage everyone to bring a second (or extra) cloth mask in case the first gets wet.

- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
  - Hand sanitizer stations must be installed throughout the facility. Hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be provided.

- Encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Supplies for proper handwashing should be available include soap and water, a way to dry hands (paper towels or air hand dryers), no-touch trash cans.

Maintain Healthy Environments

- Ventilation in Buildings
  - Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation.
  - Inspect and evaluate the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit to ensure that the system is operating within its design specifications.
  - Conduct routine maintenance as recommended by the manufacturer or HVAC professional.
  - Within the design specification of the HVAC unit:
    - Increase the volume of outdoor air to the maximum capacity while the facility is occupied.
    - Reduce the volume of recirculated air being returned to the indoor spaces
    - Increase the volume of air being delivered to the indoor spaces to the maximum capacity
    - Select maximum filtration levels for the HVAC unit.
    - Run the HVAC unit continuously while the facility is occupied.
    - Run the HVAC unit for at least two hours before and two hours after the facility is occupied.
  - Consider installing portable air cleaners equipped with a high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter to increase the amount of clean air within the facility.
- Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Maintain documented procedures for the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces **at least daily**.
  - Adjust routine building and venue checklists to include appropriate disinfection procedures as recommended herein or by the CDC.
  - Shared equipment for staff should be routinely cleaned.
  - Ensure safe and effective use and storage of cleaning and disinfectant products by reading and following label directions. This includes not mixing chemical products and applying them at directed concentrations for directed amount of time and storing them securely

away from children and animals.

- Use disinfectants from EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2(COVID-19). Consult with the manufacturers to decide which EPA- approved disinfectants are best for shared objects and surfaces.

- Modify Layouts
  - Establish a "guest flow" plan, including managing queues and making walkways or stairways one-way or clearly divided for bi-directional travel. Include appropriate directional signs/markers. Address high-traffic intersections to maximize physical distance between persons.
  - Assign separate entrance and exit points to encourage everyone to move in one direction (while maintaining appropriate availability of emergency/fire exits), when possible. Consider the use of multiple single direction entrances and exits to discourage crowds forming. Anticipate lines forming and ensure 6 feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
  - Consider adjusting equipment layout and/or close/restrict access to equipment to maintain appropriate social distancing among customers.
  - Space out tables or consider eliminating/closing a portion of the tables to encourage social distancing.
- Restrooms
  - Individually partitioned showers or communal showers with installed barriers/partitions (at least 6 feet apart) are permitted at facilities with pools (in accordance with the NJAC 8:26, Public Recreational Bathing). Showers are not otherwise permitted.
  - Locker rooms are permitted for general use, subject to the protocols outlined herein.
  - Stagger use of shared spaces (such as limiting the number of people within bathroom, shower and locker rooms) to allow for staff and guests social distancing. Anticipate lines forming and ensure 6 feet of separation between persons or groups by using ground markings.
  - Ensure restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity when the building is occupied.
- Install physical barriers ("sneeze guards") at ticket windows and point of sale stations; clean such barriers regularly especially when visibly soiled. Consider assigning one person to each Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal. Terminals should

be disinfected between each use.

- Use touchless payment methods, reservation and cancellation systems where possible (e.g., advance purchase online or by phone, or no-sign credit card payment). Encourage advance ticket sales or other such purchase options wherever possible.

- Entertainment
    - Any music or other entertainment offered by the establishment involving a live performance that is otherwise permitted at the facility must adhere to strict social distancing between performers and guests. Establishments must ensure performers and their performance team maintain at least six feet of distance between themselves and the audience. Physical barriers may be used in addition to social distancing requirements.
- Food and Beverage Concessions
    - Venues that include food service or concession operations and retail operations should also adhere to the applicable standards for those specific activities and businesses.
- Communication Systems
    - Post signs in highly visible locations (e.g., at entrances, in restrooms, on televisions) that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs, such as by properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face covering. Provide signs and messages in multiple languages.
    - Establishments should broadcast regular announcements about reducing the spread of COVID-19 on PA systems where available.
    - Ensure protocols established are followed and communicated to all vendors.

Prepare for When Someone Becomes Sick

- Make sure that staff and guests know that they should not come to the facility when ill and that they should notify amusement park operators if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive, or have been exposed to a confirmed case.
- If the employer is notified of a positive case of a worker or patron, the facility shall notify the local health department (LHD) in the city or town where the facility is located and assist the LHD as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to self-quarantine.
- Establish health/safety protocol for the venue should a customer or employee become ill while at the attraction. Immediately isolate the ill person and have the person wear a mask. Ensure the procedure includes the transport of a sick individual.

- First aid stations must be established and protocols for the isolation and removal of ill persons developed for the care of those who become symptomatic while on- site.