

WEST VIRGINIA STRONG

The Comeback

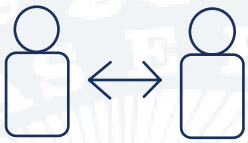


**A Guide to Safely
Operating Campgrounds**

A Guide to Safely Operating Campgrounds

Under Gov. Justice's reopening plan, **West Virginia Strong – The Comeback**, all campgrounds can reopen in accordance with the guidelines outlined below.

To assist with the reopening, Gov. Justice has issued the following guidelines to mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among workers and guests. These guidelines, in addition to the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) or the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), will help campground owners and managers establish proper protocols and procedures to keep all guests and workers safe. Campgrounds are allowed and encouraged to implement more stringent protocols as they see fit.



Note: Effective as of November 14, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings while in confined, indoor spaces where other individuals may be present, regardless of one's perceived ability to social distance from other individuals, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 77-20. This requirement does not apply to individuals in their own residence, individuals actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and those individuals who are in an enclosed office or separate room.

Per CDC Guidance, exempt from this requirement are:

- children younger than 2 years old,
- anyone who has trouble breathing through a face covering, and
- persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance

As your business reviews and implements these new measures, we encourage you to share and discuss them with your employees and customers. Communicating enhanced cleaning and sanitization practices will make workers and guests feel more confident in your campgrounds.

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GUEST SAFETY

- **Face coverings:** Per Executive Order 77-20, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to use face coverings (masks, bandannas, face shields, etc.) when in confined, indoor spaces where others may be present, other than for individuals in their own residence, individuals actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and those individuals who are in an enclosed office or separate room.
- **Campsite spacing:** Campground staff should ensure sufficient physical distancing between campsites to allow for appropriate social distancing among campers.
- **Short-term:** No campsite can be rented for longer than 7 nights to individuals traveling from outside of the state, except those who maintain a permanent or semi-permanent residence at such campsite or are traveling as part of an essential business or operation.
- **Social distancing:** Campers shall be advised to practice physical distancing by staying at least six (6) feet away from other groups of people not traveling with them.
- **Public areas:** Signage should be posted in public areas and common spaces to encourage campers to maintain appropriate social distancing and to limit gathering size.
- **Limit access:** Campground staff should monitor guest use of popular trails and scenic overlooks. Use may need to be limited to avoid overcrowding and encourage proper social distancing.
- **Bring cleaners:** Guests should be encouraged to bring disinfecting cleaners and hand sanitizers for use throughout their stay.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

- **Guest screening:** Guests are encouraged to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **Temperature checks:** Campers are encouraged to take their temperatures daily. If their temperature measures over 100 degrees, campers should leave immediately.
- **Sick guests:** Any guest who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) must leave the grounds immediately and seek medical care and/or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines.
- **Remote check-in process:** Remote check-ins, where guests go directly to their sites is preferable. Consider implementing mobile or web-based check-ins.

COMMUNAL BUILDINGS

(Bath Houses, Camp/Convenient Stores, Laundry Facilities)

- **Increase cleaning:** Campground staff should increase routine cleaning and disinfection procedures with emphasis on frequently touched surfaces (such as door handles, counters, light switches, toilets, etc.).
- **Cleaning solutions:** Cleaning products and protocols shall include EPA-approved disinfectants that meet CDC requirements for use and effectiveness against viruses, bacteria and other airborne and bloodborne pathogens. For more information, please refer to the CDC guidelines on disinfecting public spaces.

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- **Avoid large groups:** Campground staff should monitor groups to avoid exceeding appropriate gathering limits.
- **Signage:** Campground staff should post signs/posters promoting proper handwashing and social distancing. Staff should maintain an adequate supply of soap and paper towels (if applicable) in all public restrooms. Sample resources are available on [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

COMMUNICATING WITH GUESTS

- **Communication of new policies:** Use digital systems, such as your website, social media platforms and email communication, to educate your guests of your new cleaning protocols and safety precautions.
- **Emergency contact information:** Post emergency contact numbers in your guest portfolios in case of illness among staff or guests.
- **Signage:** Post signage at each public entrance to inform workers and guests of best practices including, but not limited to:
 - Avoid entering if they have a cough, fever or generally feel unwell.
 - Maintain a minimum separation of at least six (6) feet in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
 - Wear a cloth face covering at all times in property public spaces and common areas.
 - Avoid shaking hands or engaging in any unnecessary physical contact.

AMENITIES

- **Food & Beverage Services:** Onsite restaurants must follow Gov. Justice's most recent guidelines for restaurants.
 - [Click here to review restaurant guidelines.](#)
- **Pools & Fitness Centers:** Onsite pools and fitness centers must operate in accordance with Gov. Justice's most recent [guidelines for such facilities.](#)
 - [Click here to review pool guidelines.](#)
 - [Click here to review fitness center guidelines.](#)
- **Outdoor Recreation Equipment Rentals:** Onsite recreation equipment rentals must follow Gov. Justice's most recent guidelines for outdoor recreation outfitters.
 - [Click here to view outdoor recreation outfitter guidelines.](#)
- **Gift shops or camp stores:** Onsite giftshops must follow Gov. Justice's most recent guidelines for retail stores.
 - [Click here to view specialty retail guidelines.](#)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

- **Screen employees:** Screen all employees reporting to work daily for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
 - Have you had new loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?
- **Temperature checks:** Employees are encouraged to take their temperature prior to leaving for work or upon arrival. If their temperature measures over 100 degrees, the employee should notify management and not return to work that day and any future days when the temperature is over 100 degrees.

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- **Sick employees:** Direct any employee who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms (i.e., answers yes to any of the screening questions or who is running a fever) to leave the premises immediately and seek medical care and/ or COVID-19 testing, per CDC guidelines. Employers should maintain the confidentiality of employee health information.
- **At-risk individuals:** Consider special accommodations for employees that are members of a vulnerable population, like senior citizens or immunocompromised people, including encouraging teleworking to the maximum extent possible among other measures.
- **Tracing:** Develop and implement policies and procedures for employee contact tracing following employee with a positive COVID-19 test and inform the local health department of such positive test and tracing.
- **Face coverings:** Per Executive Order 77-20, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to use face coverings (masks, bandannas, face shields, etc.) when in confined, indoor spaces where others may be present, other than for individuals in their own residence, individuals actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and those individuals who are in an enclosed office or separate room.
- **Necessary supplies:** Inform team members that, if PPE and cleaning supplies run low, they are to contact the department manager immediately for additional supplies.
- **Shared resources:** Discourage workers from sharing resources or other work tools or equipment, whenever possible.
- **Physical distancing:** Physical distancing among all employees shall be practiced, as much as possible.
- **Communication:** Campground management should establish means to communicate with guests over the internet or telephone. This will limit face-to-face interactions for transactions like checking into the campground and complaints/recommendations from guests.

In addition to the specific guidelines for West Virginia campgrounds above, businesses and their employees should be mindful of the more general guidance issued for small businesses, found at governor.wv.gov.