

REOPENING RI

Phase II Rhode Island Campgrounds and RV and Seasonal Trailer Parks (private and public) Guidelines

Updated
06.13.20

In accordance with Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) [emergency regulations](#), businesses and organizations must prepare and implement [a COVID-19 Control Plan](#). A checklist and [template](#) can be found on [Reopening RI General Business/Organization Guidelines](#) website. The State prepared a [guidance document](#) to assist organizations in meeting the requirements outlined in these RIDOH regulations.

In Phase I, some private campgrounds opened for seasonal camping only. Beginning in Phase II, public and private campgrounds can open to transient camping. Transient campers are those who stay at a campground for a short time or pass through as opposed to seasonal campers who leave a camper or recreational vehicle (RV) on one campsite for an extended period of time, most commonly during the summer season. The guidelines below summarize additional steps that operators of Rhode Island transient and seasonal campgrounds, RV parks, and seasonal trailer parks should take to comply with these requirements. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) plans to open State campgrounds, with these restrictions in place, on June 29.

If you have any questions about this guidance, please contact Rlparks@dem.ri.gov.

- **Physical Distancing:** The number of campers at each campsite should be limited to group sizes in accordance with current RIDOH and reopeningri.com guidance; and, campers shall be advised to practice physical distancing by staying at least six feet away from other groups of people not traveling with them. Outside of their family groups, campers should practice physical distancing wherever possible, including while swimming or doing other water-based activities in the campground.
- **Capacity:** Establish proper space between campsites to help with physical distancing. At least 14 feet between neighboring camping units is recommended. When possible, reserve only non-adjacent campsites. Operators should also consider not allowing, or limiting, the number of day visitors that campers can have, which will limit the total number of people in the campground and help with physical distancing and group size requirements.
- **Out-of-state Campers and Quarantine Orders:** Operators may accept reservations from out-of-state campers as allowed by current Executive Orders. In Phase II this means that operators should not allow campers from areas with active community spread or stay-at-home orders. Campgrounds who welcome transient campers should not be used for quarantine or isolation purposes. A list of states and locales with active stay-at-home orders can be found [here](#).
- **Check-in Procedures:**
 - When checking campers in, campgrounds should keep contact to a minimum. If possible, perform the check-in outside by the camper's vehicle, use an electronic check-in system and allow for advanced payments, through electronic means or by credit cards, to encourage cashless transactions.
 - Upon check-in, provide campers with information regarding the need for physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene/washing, use of cloth face coverings when in public places, and limited activities and use of facilities at the campground.
- **Food and Beverage Sales:** All food and beverage sales offered by operators or concessionaires shall follow the most recent Executive Orders, regulations, and/or [guidance related to restaurants](#).

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- **Camp Stores:** All camp stores shall follow the most recent Executive Orders, regulations, and/or guidance related to retail stores at [Reopeningri.com](https://reopeningri.com).
- **Face Coverings:** All persons (employees and campers) are required to wear face coverings when congregating in common areas and where six-foot physical distancing cannot be easily, continuously, and measurably maintained in accordance with RIDOH regulations and [executive orders](#). Common areas include but are not limited to restrooms, concession stands, camp offices, and stores. Face coverings should not be worn in the water.
- **Cleaning Procedures:** Public areas (including, high-touch points, rails, water spigots, restrooms, bath houses, camp convenience stores, and laundry facilities) should be cleaned in accordance with RIDOH [regulations](#) and [CDC guidelines](#). Campers should be encouraged to bring disinfecting cleaners and hand sanitizers for use throughout their stay. Signs should be posted at shared public areas to encourage campers to wipe down before and after use or to thoroughly wash/sanitize their hands before and after use.
- **Restrooms and Shower Facilities:**
 - Campers who have camping units with bathrooms and showers on board should be encouraged to use their own camper/RV bathrooms rather than public bathroom and shower facilities.
 - Restrooms shall be frequently cleaned and disinfected, especially high-touch surfaces as stated above.
 - Operators should adopt and implement practices to ensure that six-foot physical distancing is adhered to, such as occupancy limits, staggered and marked queueing lines, and/or closing some bathroom or shower stalls. Signage should be posted in the restroom and shower facilities regarding these practices and the need for proper handwashing.
- **Beaches, Pools and Fitness Centers:** Onsite pools and fitness centers shall comply with the most recent Executive Orders, regulations, and/or reopeningri.com guidance related to beaches, swimming pools, and fitness centers.
- **Events and Special Programming:** Special events and programs should be allowed only if they meet group size limits, screening, and cleaning protocols in accordance with current Executive Orders, RIDOH regulations and reopeningri.com guidance. Event participants who are not in family groups must be able to comply with the six-foot physical distance requirements for the duration of the event or activity.
- **Hand Washing:** Employees are required to wash their hands with soap and water on a routine basis. Employees in positions that require direct contact with customers should wear gloves only if normally required to do so.
- **Outdoor Recreation Activities and Equipment Rentals:** Operators who offer lessons, programs, classes, or rentals should meet all COVID-19-related regulations, requirements and guidelines regarding those offerings. Equipment loaned or rented to visitors (e.g., canoes, kayaks, boogie boards, beach chairs, and umbrellas) shall be sanitized between each use, per [CDC guidance](#).
- **Playgrounds:** Outdoor playgrounds and play areas may open provided operators meet current cleaning and disinfecting protocols in accordance with RIDOH regulations and CDC guidelines. Park operators should display posters and signs to remind visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Visitors should be encouraged to review [CDC guidance for visiting parks and recreation](#) facilities and to bring hand sanitizer for disinfecting after use.

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- **Camper Screening:** Camp operators shall post information requiring campers to self- screen for COVID-19 symptoms in compliance with RIDOH regulations and [ReopeningRI.com](https://www.reopeningri.com) guidance. Any camper who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or answers yes to any of the [screening questions](#) must leave the grounds immediately and seek medical care and/or [COVID-19 testing](#), per CDC guidelines. Campers who become symptomatic while at a Rhode Island campground and require assistance should call 211. Campers who are unable to return home and need an alternate place to stay should be referred to [RI Havens](#) for access to hotel rooms with reduced rates.
- **Employees:**
 - Campground employees should be [screened](#) daily in compliance with RIDOH regulations and [ReopeningRI.com](https://www.reopeningri.com) guidance.
 - Employees who are sick or who have COVID-19 symptoms should not come to work. If employees develop COVID-19 symptoms while working, they should go home immediately and self-quarantine and/or get tested for COVID-19.
 - Employees will wear cloth face coverings consistent with the requirements of [Executive Orders](#). Employees who are responsible for administering first aid, such as park rangers and lifeguards, will wear surgical masks while administering first aid.
- **Communications Plan:**
 - Operators should develop clear messages regarding restrictions and COVID-19 related measures for the campground. These restrictions and measures should be communicated to campers through the operator’s website, social media channels, email, and/or the media.
 - Operators should develop and post signage throughout their facilities regarding the need to physical distance, wear a face covering, and wash hands.