

## Guidance for Outdoor Public and School Playgrounds



### For Operators

All outdoor public and school playground facility operators should review and follow these recommendations, as they relate to your playground:

- Outdoor areas generally require normal routine cleaning and do not require disinfection. Continue existing cleaning practices for outdoor areas. Increase the cleaning frequency of high touch surfaces to daily, as practical.
- Monitor areas where people are likely to gather and consider temporary closures to support social distancing practices.
- Post signs discouraging groups from gathering.
- An adult must supervise each child at all times to ensure they practice social distance and wear face coverings. Children in a household or group must always stay in the same play area or play structure for supervision to occur.
- Children between ages 2 and 9 are encouraged to wear a face covering as indicated in Directive 24.
- People must stay 6 feet away from other adults and children outside their household or group, including children using or waiting to use play structures or play areas, and families waiting to enter the playground.
- If an infant or child requires attention (nursing, diapering) that precludes their adult from actively supervising other children in their group or household using the playground, the adult should ask the other children of their group or household to leave the play structure/area and stay by their adult's side until needed care is complete.
- To the extent feasible, provide handwashing stations or hand sanitizer to facilitate hand hygiene, especially during times of heavy usage. Use a hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol.
- Post the maximum number of children allowed at the entrance of each playground.
  - Determine and post the maximum occupancy of each play structure (e.g., climbing structures, slides, swings, spinning structures, and sand areas) with 6 foot vertical and horizontal distancing.
  - Determine and post the maximum occupancy for supervising adults to ensure that each adult can maintain six feet of distance from other adults and children.
  - Provide directions on how to wait in line when maximum playground occupancy has been reached.
- If necessary, consider providing physical guides to ensure that people remain at least 6 feet apart while in the playground. For example, markings on the ground, colored tape, or signs (in appropriate languages) to indicate safe distances.
- Mark playgrounds to help children and adults maintain 6 feet social distancing.
  - Mark spaces for families to stand while waiting to enter the playground. The spaces should be far enough apart to allow 6 feet of distance between households.

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- Post the maximum number of children allowed on each structure/in each area to allow 6 feet distancing vertically and horizontally.
    - For play structures or areas that can hold more than one child, consider marking with tape or other visual indicators to help children assess whether they are 6 feet apart.
    - Mark designated spaces 6 feet apart for children to stand while waiting to use a play structure/area.
  - Facility operators should download and print the flyer (see below) to post at all outdoor playgrounds.
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## **For Visitors**

Visitors to outdoor community playgrounds must comply with the following requirements:

- Face covering or masks over the mouth and nose are encouraged for those over 2 years of age or older with caregiver supervision at all times to ensure face mask use. Those over 10 years of age must wear a face covering with caregiver supervision to ensure proper face mask use.
- Do not use the playground when different households are unable to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet or when the capacity limit has been reached.
- Caregivers must monitor to keep adults and children from different households at least 6 feet apart.
- Consider coming on different times or days to avoid wait times and potentially crowded times.
- No eating or drinking in the playground to ensure face masks are always worn.
- Wash or sanitize hands before and after using the playground.
- Elderly and persons with underlying medical conditions should avoid the playground when others are present.
- Limit visit to 30 min per day when others are present.

# Stay Safe on the Playground

Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in our communities, please follow these simple steps to help keep our outdoor playgrounds safe, open and fun.



## WEAR A MASK

Everyone 2 to 9 years of age is encouraged to wear a face covering. Those over 10 years must wear a face covering. The face covering must cover the nose and mouth.

## MAINTAIN DISTANCE

Maintain physical distance of 6 feet between individuals from different households and prevent crowding of children.

## NO FOOD OR DRINK

Do not eat or drink in the playground area to ensure face masks are always worn.

## KNOW WHEN TO STAY HOME

Elderly individuals and people with underlying medical conditions should avoid playgrounds when others are present.

## PLAN AHEAD

Visit the park at different times or days to avoid crowds and waits.

## WASH HANDS

Wash or sanitize your hands before and after your visit to the playground.

## SHARE OUR SPACE

To avoid crowding and allow everyone to use this space. Please limit your visit to 30 minutes when others are waiting.



[www.snhd.info/covid](http://www.snhd.info/covid)