



Effective Date: March 24, 2021

Sector Guidance — Outdoor Recreation and Outdoor Fitness Establishments

Authority: Executive Order No. 20-66, ORS 433.441, ORS 433.443, ORS 431A.010

Applicability: This guidance applies to:

- outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments; and
- the general public, including leagues, trainers, coaches, officials, players, K-12 and spectators, while participating in or using outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments.
- public outdoor areas, as applicable

Note: Senior centers are not allowed to operate regardless of the designated risk level of the county in which the establishment is located.

Enforcement: To the extent this guidance requires compliance with certain provisions, it is enforceable as specified in Executive Order 20-66, paragraph 10.

Definitions: For purposes of this guidance, the following definitions apply:

- “Full-contact sports” means sports that involve a requirement or substantial likelihood of routine, sustained close proximity or physical contact between participants, and includes but is not limited to football, rugby, wrestling, cheerleading, basketball, hockey, dance, water polo, men’s lacrosse, unless the sport is played by rules that eliminate the requirement or substantial likelihood of routine, sustained close proximity or physical contact between participants.
- “General-use pools” means large pool facilities including but not limited to municipal swimming pools and community center pools.
- “Limited-use pools” means pools that are operated in connection with a companion facility, such as an apartment complex, hotel/motel, private club, association or organizational camp where the pool is limited to residents, patrons or members.
- “Minimal- and medium-contact sports” include but are not limited to softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, women’s lacrosse, and flag football.
- “Non-contact sports” include but are not limited to tennis, swimming, cross-country, track and field, sideline/no-contact cheer and dance.

- “Outdoor” means any open-air space including any space which may have a temporary or fixed cover (e.g. awning or roof) and at least fifty percent of the square footage of its sides open for airflow such that open sides are not adjacent to each other.
- “Outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments ” means outdoor locations where outdoor recreation, agritourism, outdoor K-12 sports and fitness activities occur including but not limited to outdoor gyms, outdoor fitness organizations, outdoor recreational sports, outdoor pools, outdoor K-12 sports, outdoor personal training and outdoor dance.
- “Public outdoor areas” means outside areas open to the public, such as but not limited to local or state parks, campgrounds, hiking and biking trails, golf courses, ski areas and outdoor skate parks, where outside activities occur such as but not limited to hiking, backpacking, bird watching, spelunking, mountain biking, rock climbing, snowshoeing and ice-climbing.

As general guidance, smaller groups are safer than larger; outdoor locations are safer than indoor locations; sports that can ensure distance of six (6) feet or more are safer than those that require closer contact; and shorter duration is safer than longer.

Indoor full-contact sports are prohibited at this time. Training and conditioning, such as weightlifting, running drills and intra-squad scrimmaging, cannot include full contact of any kind.

K-12 school sports

Participation in physical activity is vital to the health and well-being of young people. This guidance is intended to provide opportunities for physical activity while reducing risk of transmission of COVID-19. Guidelines for K-12 School Sports are now based on a [county’s COVID-19 risk level](#) (lower, moderate, high, extreme). **Guidelines for K-12 School Sports are not dependent on school health metrics from the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#).** Refer to [ODE guidance for reopening to in-person instruction](#) for additional information on school operations. K-12 sports may resume in accordance to the guidance outlined in this document. Spectators of K-12 outdoor sports events must comply with the requirements listed under the ‘Distancing and Occupancy’ section in this guidance.

Additional requirements for extreme- and high-risk Counties:

- Outdoor K-12 full-contact sports, including full contact practice and competition, may take place in counties that are in extreme or high risk, as long as the following is met:
 - K-12 public school districts or governing bodies of private schools may opt-in to practice and compete in outdoor K-12 full-contact sports only if the school is offering Comprehensive Distance Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI) or Hybrid or On-Site Instructional Models as described in the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners guidance](#). Districts and private school governing bodies are required to submit a plan for practice and competition for outdoor K-12 full-contact sports that includes an assurance and commitment that all participants will be required to [quarantine](#) if exposed to COVID 19 or [isolate](#) if they contract COVID-19. This plan will be submitted to ODE and posted on the ODE website.
- Districts and private school governing bodies opting-in to **outdoor K-12 full-contact sports** in extreme or high-risk counties, must complete an Outdoor Contact Sports Opt-In Form (found on ODE’s website) and include the following:

- Offer, at a minimum, Comprehensive Distance Learning **with** Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI), with the goal of implementing Hybrid or full On-Site Instructional Models for students before the end of the 2020-21 school year.
- Comply with the [Oregon School Testing Plan](#).
- **For extreme risk counties**, limit sports field capacity for coaches, officials and players to 120 people maximum.
- **For high risk counties**, follow the maximum capacity limits for outdoor recreation and fitness based on the [designated risk level](#) for the county where the outdoor K-12 full contact sport event is located.
- Offer on-site responsive testing for symptomatic individuals and for those with known exposures to individuals with COVID-19. This applies to athletes, support staff and volunteers.
- Collect contact information for contact tracing (as stated below in Contact Tracing section of this guidance).
- Collect a waiver from each participant or their parent/guardian that acknowledges the health and safety risks of COVID-19 when participating in outdoor full contact sports.

Operations:

Outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments, and operators of public outdoor areas are required to:

- Review and implement [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#).
- Ensure all individuals are complying with [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#).
- Ensure that any outside spaces created or used for services or operations meet the definition for “outdoor”. **If the space does not meet the definition of outdoor, then the services or operations will be considered indoor and therefore must comply with the requirements and guidance for indoor operations.**
- Ensure all facilities and equipment are safe to operate and are in good condition after any extended closure in accordance with applicable maintenance and operations manuals and standard operating procedures.
- Keep saunas and steam rooms closed.
- Keep sandboxes closed.
- Keep drop-in childcare closed.
- Refer to and apply the [Statewide Guidance for Youth Programs](#) for any children and youth programs.
- Post [clear signs](#) listing COVID-19 symptoms, asking individuals with symptoms to stay home, and listing who to contact if they need assistance.
- Post [clear signs](#) about the mask, face covering, or face shield requirements.
- Use [signs](#) to encourage physical distancing throughout facility, including but not limited to reception areas, locker rooms, and near shared equipment areas.

- Establish one-way traffic flow, where possible, for equipment circuits, tracks, etc. Use signs to direct one-way flow of traffic.
- Provide handwashing stations or hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) throughout the facility for by individuals.
- Refer to [Eating and Drinking Establishments Guidance](#) for information about food handling and distribution as applicable.
- Communicate all policies and facilities information to individuals, as applicable, prior to resuming outdoor recreation and reopening outdoor fitness establishments.
- Review and implement [General Guidance for Employers and Organizations](#).

Additionally, for extreme- and high-risk counties, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments that organize practice and competition for adult, youth or club outdoor full-contact sports are required to:

- Offer on-site responsive testing for symptomatic individuals and close contacts.
- Collect contact information for contact tracing (as stated below in the Contact Tracing section of this guidance).
- Collect a signed acknowledgement of risk from each participant or their parent/guardian that includes at least the following acknowledgments:
 - Participating in outdoor full contact sports increases the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19.
 - Participants will [quarantine](#) if exposed to COVID-19 or [isolate](#) if they contract COVID-19.

To the extent possible, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments, and operators of public outdoor areas *should, but are not required to:*

- Consider having outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment times by appointment to limit number of people in or at the facility. Encourage use during non-peak times as determined and publicized by facility management.
- Consider offering virtual fitness classes, especially for persons at higher risk for severe COVID-19 complications such as people over 60 or with underlying medical conditions.
- Strongly encourage individuals to bring their own filled water bottles and hygiene supplies (including hand sanitizer), as well as to take their trash with them when they leave.
- Permit activities consistent with emergency response activities, including training for emergency personnel, even in a county where, based on the designated risk level, the activity would not be permitted at a particular location. If such activities do take place, OHA requirements and guidance still apply.

If operating an outdoor pool, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments are required to:

- Comply with [OAR 333, Division 60](#).

- Require staff (including lifeguards¹) to wear a mask, face covering or face shield when NOT in the water.
- Swim instructors are required to wear masks or face coverings when not in the water.
- For outdoor spa pools, limit the use of the pool to one household unit at a time. Operators may consider scheduling reservations in 15-minute increments.

Distancing and occupancy:

Outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments, and operators of public outdoor areas are required to:

- With the exception of public outdoor areas, limit maximum capacity based on the [designated level of risk](#) for the county in which the outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment is located.
 - Capacity limits do not apply to public outdoor areas.
- Ensure that physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between individuals is maintained at all times, including at outdoor playgrounds, splash pads and in and around restrooms.
- For outdoor sports events, spectators must comply with the capacity limits for Outdoor Entertainment Establishments.

Spectators must be in a designated area with separate entrances, exits and restrooms from the sporting event participants, that is at least six (6) feet from the sports activities. Capacity limits for the designated area is separate from the capacity limits for the outdoor recreation and fitness area. Capacity limits must be based on the designated spectator area only and not on the entire outdoor recreation and fitness area.

- For outdoor sports events, a physical distancing monitor must be assigned to ensure compliance with the maximum capacity limits for spectators.
- As applicable, limit exercise equipment stations to those located at least six (6) feet apart. If equipment cannot be moved to facilitate physical distancing, it must be blocked from being used.
- As applicable, space out player equipment to prevent players from coming into direct contact with one another.
- For one-to-one personal training, maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between trainer and client. Trainer and client should thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm water or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) immediately before and after appointment.
- Inform participants, visitors and customers that members of the same party can participate in activities together and do not have to stay six (6) feet apart.

¹ The [Oregon Administrative Rules](#) that regulate pools in Oregon have different requirements for each type of pool. For example, most limited use pools do not require a lifeguard. If your facility is not required to have a lifeguard, you may disregard that part of the guidance.

- Assign a physical distancing monitor to ensure compliance with all distancing requirements, including at entrances, exits, restrooms, ski lifts and any other area where people may gather.
- Develop a plan to limit the number of individuals admitted into outdoor recreation and fitness establishments so that six (6) feet of physical distancing can be maintained. Operators may consider requiring reservations to limit the number of individuals in the pool area.
- Arrange or close common areas such as picnic tables not in shelters/structures, day-use shelters, and buildings open to the public so there is at least six (6) feet of physical distance between individuals (chairs, benches, tables).
- Prohibit parties from congregating in parking lots for periods longer than reasonable to retrieve/return gear and enter/exit vehicles.
- When multiple outdoor recreation and fitness events occur at the same outdoor sports complex at the same time, outdoor recreation and fitness establishment operators are required to:
 - Ensure staff, participants and spectators for outdoor recreation do not share space, including but not limited to restrooms, hallways, concession stands.
 - Clean and sanitize commonly touched surfaces, such as door handles, between subsequent outdoor recreation games.
 - Ensure that high-traffic areas such as entrances, exits, check-in tables, restrooms and concession areas, are cleaned and sanitized between subsequent outdoor recreation games.
 - ◆ If staff, participants and spectators at the same outdoor recreation games share a restroom, leave entrance/exit doors open, if possible, and ensure that commonly touched surfaces such as stall door handles and faucets are regularly cleaned and sanitized.

Additionally, for extreme- and high-risk counties, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments that organize practice and competition for adult, youth or club outdoor full-contact sports are required to:

- Follow the capacity limits for outdoor full-contact sports based on the [designated risk level](#) for where the sport is being played.

To the extent possible, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments, and operators of public outdoor areas should, but are not required to:

- Stagger arrival and departure times for individuals to minimize congregating at entrances, exits and restrooms to follow required physical distancing requirements.
- Consider closing alternating parking spots to facilitate at least six (6) feet of physical distance between parties.
- Consider opening loop trails in a one-way direction to minimize close contact between hikers. Designate one-way walking routes to attractions if feasible.
- Encourage the public to visit parks and recreation areas close to home, avoid overnight trips and minimize travel outside their immediate area for recreation.

- Encourage one-way traffic flow with marked entrances and exits and use signs to direct one-way flow of traffic.
- Consider placing clear plastic or glass barriers in front of reception counters, or in other places where maintaining six (6) feet of physical distance between employees and clients is more difficult.
- Assign designated areas for individuals, when not participating, to ensure physical distancing is maintained.

If operating an outdoor pool, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments are required to:

- Alter pool deck layouts to ensure individuals can keep six (6) feet of physical distance.
- If using the pool for lap swim, design and implement a plan so that individuals enter and exit the pool on opposite ends and maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between one another. Prohibit the gathering of people within the facility, including at the ends of lanes.
- Designate a waiting area for individuals that allows for six (6) feet physical distancing.

For swim lessons, swim instructors are allowed to be closer than six feet from their students, but close contact should be limited as much as possible. If operating a ski lift or T-bar, operators of public outdoor areas are required to:

- Ensure that people waiting in line maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distance from each other. Members of the same household or the same party are not required to maintain physical distance.
- Ensure that only members of the same household or same party ride on the ski lift together, unless a physical distance of at least six (6) feet can be maintained between parties at all times while on the ski lift.

Locker rooms:

If the outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishment operators allow locker room use, they are required to:

- Prohibit the use of indoor recreation and indoor fitness establishments for any other purpose than locker room use.
 - In extreme risk counties, all saunas, steam rooms, hot tubs, therapy pools and any other licensed pool is not allowed to operate inside of locker rooms.
- Develop and implement a plan to keep at least six (6) feet of physical distance between people.
- Ensure that the locker room does not exceed maximum occupancy. Use the total square footage of the locker room to determine the maximum occupancy of the locker room based on a minimum of 35 square feet per person.
- Assign a physical distancing monitor to ensure individuals follow all physical distancing requirements, including at entrances, exits, restrooms and any other area where people may gather.

Cleaning and disinfection:

Outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments, and operators of public outdoor recreation areas are required to:

- Thoroughly clean all areas of fitness-related organization prior to reopening after extended closure. Use disinfectants that are included on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved list](#)² for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.
- As applicable, require individuals to wipe down all equipment (e.g., balls, weights, machines, etc.) immediately before and after each use with a disinfectant provided by the gym that is included on the EPA-approved products for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. A solution of 70%-95% alcohol content is also acceptable.
- Wipe down frequently touched areas in restrooms at least twice daily and ensure adequate sanitary supplies (e.g., soap, toilet paper, 60-95% alcohol content hand sanitizer) throughout the day. Outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishment operators may consider using a “one-in-one-out” policy, where only one individual is permitted within the restroom at one time.
 - Operators that are unable to wipe down frequently touched areas in restrooms at least twice daily, and cannot ensure adequate sanitary supplies, should close restrooms or post a sign stating that the operator is unable to wipe down the restroom twice daily.
- Encourage handwashing in and around outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments and provide handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizer in and around the premises, including near outdoor gym equipment and entrances and exits to the establishment.

Operators of public outdoor recreation areas should, but are not required to:

- Encourage individuals to bring their own hand sanitizer for personal use and to wipe down surfaces before using them.

If operating an outdoor pool, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments are required to:

- Thoroughly clean all areas of the outdoor pool prior to reopening after extended closure. Specifically:
 - Prevent Legionella: If a facility has been closed for a prolonged period:
 - ◆ Flush your water system, both hot and cold water. The purpose of flushing is to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water.
 - ◆ Flush until the hot water reaches its maximum temperature.
 - ◆ Care should be taken to minimize splashing and aerosol generation during flushing.

² <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

- ◆ Other water-using devices, such as ice machines, may require additional cleaning steps in addition to flushing, such as discarding old ice. Follow water-using device manufacturers' instructions.
- Have maintenance staff or a pool maintenance company regularly check the pool recirculation equipment for proper operation and disinfectant levels prior to the opening of the pool.
- Prohibit lifeguards from cleaning and sanitizing while on duty.

To the extent possible, if operating an outdoor pool, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments should, but are not required to:

- Strongly encourage clients to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer (60-95% alcohol content) immediately before and after pool use.
- Flush water pipes weekly while is the outdoor pool is vacant and prior to resuming normal pool use. Stagnant water in pipes can create conditions that favor the growth and spread of Legionella and other harmful bacteria (see [Guidance for Reopening Building Water Systems after Prolonged Shutdown](#)).

Contact tracing:

For extreme- and high-risk counties, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments that organize practice and competition for adult, youth or club outdoor full-contact sports are required to:

- Record participant, visitor and customer contact information, date and time of outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment use. If there is a positive COVID-19 case associated with the outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment, public health officials may need the business to provide this information for a contact tracing investigation. Unless otherwise required, this information may be destroyed after 60 days from the session date.

To the extent possible, outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishments should, but are not required to:

- Record participant, visitor and customer contact information, date and time of outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment use. If there is a positive COVID-19 case associated with the outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment, public health officials may need the business to provide this information for a contact tracing investigation. Unless otherwise required, this information may be destroyed after 60 days from the session date.
- Screen participants, visitors and customers prior to start of the outdoor recreation or outdoor fitness establishment session such as asking:
 - Have you had a new or worsening cough?
 - Have you had a fever?
 - Have you had shortness of breath?
 - Have you been in close contact with anyone with these symptoms or anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

If the participant, visitor or customer responds “yes” to any of the screening questions, ask them to return home and wait to return to the facility until all symptoms, including fever have been resolved for at least 24 hours without medication, or at least 14 days after contact with a person with a cough, fever, or diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Strongly encourage a participant, visitor or customer exhibiting symptoms of illness to immediately leave the facility and not return until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved without medication.
- Strongly encourage participants, visitors and customers at higher risk for severe COVID-19 complications (persons over age 65 or with underlying medical conditions) to continue to stay home to reduce their risk of exposure.

Training and playing:

Outdoor recreation and fitness establishments are required to:

- Ensure that there is only the minimal or medium contact among participants needed to play the game.
- Prohibit handshakes, high fives, fist/elbow bumps, chest bumps and group celebrations.

To the extent possible, outdoor recreation and fitness establishments where sports are played should, but are not required to:

- Encourage players to use only their own equipment when feasible. Avoid or minimize equipment sharing, when feasible.
 - Some critical equipment may not be available to each player. When it is necessary to share critical or limited equipment, all surfaces of each piece of shared equipment must be cleaned and disinfected frequently, as appropriate for the sport (e.g. between players, sets, periods, or games). Use disinfectants that are included on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved list](#) for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Clean all equipment that directly contacts the head, face and hands with extra attention and detail.
- Allow only trainers, coaches and players to attend practices to ensure physical distancing and prevent people from gathering.
- Schedule enough time between practices and games so all people from a previous practice can leave the premises before the next group enters. This minimizes gathering at entrances, exits and restrooms while providing sufficient time to sanitize the facilities/equipment.
- Require individuals to enter the premises through a designated entrance and exit through a designated exit. Do not block fire exits.
- Encourage staff, players and spectators to stay outside of the premises (e.g. in vehicles) until scheduled practice or play time. This allows people to leave the premises before entering and minimizes gathering.

Travel

Out of state travel may increase the likelihood of disease transmission. Long haul flights, including domestic, in and of themselves, pose a moderate risk of transmission. Of greater concern, and subsequently higher risk, is the increased exposure during transit at airports.

If athletes are traveling to or from an outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishment, they are required to:

- Limit exposure to those outside the travel unit during transit:
 - All members of a travel unit including drivers, if on a bus or in a car, must wear a mask, face shield or face covering and ensure a minimum of three (3) feet between passengers within the travel unit.
 - Limit travel to those who have been in regular contact and are considered essential personnel (i.e., athletes, coaches, medical staff).
- Air travel
 - When able, consider charter flights instead of commercial air travel. Commercial air travel should be on a carrier with robust infection control methods and enforcement of universal masking requirements.
 - Carry hand sanitizer that contains 60-95% alcohol content at all times and use it frequently.
 - Wear masks or face coverings at all times and minimize removal for eating or drinking.
 - Avoid traveling on the same private plane with a different team.
- Document the names of all passengers including the driver, pilot and flight staff, along with the date and time of the trip and the vehicle number/license, if applicable.
- Allow drivers to transport multiple travel units if wearing a mask and sanitizing hands before and after each driving each group. Vehicles must be cleaned between transport of each travel unit following [transportation guidelines](#).
- If experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact health care provider for testing.
- Cooperate with Local Public Health Authority, if contacted, for purposes of contact tracing.

To the extent possible, athletes traveling to or from an outdoor recreation and outdoor fitness establishment should, but are not required to:

- Follow the [OHA Guidance \(Recommendations\) for Travel](#).
- Travel and play the same day to avoid overnight stays, when feasible. For overnight stays or same-day travel, prepackaged meals or room service should be considered. If restaurant dining is the only option, consider take-out food or outdoor eating as alternatives.

Additional resources:

- [Signs you can post](#)
- [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#)
- [OHA General Guidance for Employers and Organizations](#)

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us