



2021 COVID-19 Park and Recreation Policy and Guidelines

Rationale

- Participation in both active and passive recreation in our parks benefits County citizens physically, emotionally, mentally, and socially. Recreational activities that comply with the below COVID-19 guidelines allow County citizens to stay connected with their family and friends, teammates and coaches, and their community in a controlled and responsible manner.

Guiding Principles of the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

- The health and safety of visitors to our parks, program participants, employees, volunteers and all other stakeholders will continue to be DPR's top priority and drive all decision-making.
- All shelter users and athletic field reservations must submit a "Return to Play" or "Return to Parks" Special request permit application outlining a COVID plan for use and acknowledging their responsibility to ensure compliance.
 - [Return to Play | Frederick County Parks and Recreation, MD \(recreater.com\)](https://recreater.com)
 - [Return to Parks | Frederick County Parks and Recreation, MD \(recreater.com\)](https://recreater.com)
- DPR activities and facility reservations may be modified, suspended or cancelled at any time.

General COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

- [CDC - Keep Distance at Events and Gatherings](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s1105-keep-distance-at-events-and-gatherings.html)
 - In-person Park activities are limited to athletic competitions on our ball fields and athletic spaces, general recreational use of our parks spaces and amenities, and outdoor shelter/pavilion use.
 - DPR activities and reservations may be permitted with the following guidelines in place:
 - Facility reservation requests are limited to outdoor facility use only.
 - No Special Events or Tournaments will be scheduled or permitted in County Parks at this time.
 - Face coverings are required for gatherings of fifty persons or more in our parks at shelters and on all bleacher/stadium seating.
 - Athletic spaces are limited to fifty persons per field including players, coaches, & officials.

- Six feet physical distancing should be maintained at all times unless participating in active recreation and unable to avoid other athletes.
 - Three spectators per participant will be allowed to attend competitions/games, however they must follow all face covering and physical distancing guidelines.
 - Spectators should be kept minimal (family only) or non-existent. Attendance must be consistent with the State of Maryland and Frederick County, Maryland Executive Orders.
 - Participation on athletic fields should be structured so as to minimize or prevent participant physical interaction.
 - Those in the at-risk categories, including those age 60+, should consider not attending athletic events if they have not been vaccinated.
 - Practices are still recommended to remain spectator free and only in attendance for games/competitions.
 - Guidelines will continue to be evaluated often, and updates sent out when new information is available.
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- **General Park and Recreation Hygiene Practices**
 - All park and recreation guests who are experiencing symptoms of COVID or are sick in general should refrain from visiting county parks and programs.
 - Program participants, athletic reservations, and pavilion/shelter users are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.
 - Program participants and facility users should be reminded not to touch their faces.
 - Program participants must bring their own water/sports drink bottles labeled with their names. The sharing of water bottles will not be permitted.
 - Team huddles, handshakes, fist bumps, spitting, chewing of sunflower seeds, and other activities that promote transmission of illness will not be permitted.

Nature Center and Rose Hill Museum Visitation (Beginning May 1, 2021)

- Face coverings required at all times.
- Physical distancing of six (6) feet should be maintained at all times.
- Twelve (12) or less participants will be permitted to participate/visit these indoor spaces at any given time.

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