

COVID-19 Program Handbook

September 11, 2020



As part of the ongoing response to the coronavirus (COVID-19), Dakota County Parks has developed the following practices for programs. These practices were developed under the guidance of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Dakota County Parks will update these practices as guidelines are revised. For youth programming (day camps), please consult the COVID-19 Youth Program Handbook.

Health and Safety

Handwashing

- Staff and participants will follow proper handwashing or hand sanitizing procedures.
 - Resources on hand washing can be found here:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html>
 - Participants will be asked to sanitize or wash hands upon arrival to a program, and handwashing or sanitizing supplies will be provided.

Masks

- Staff will wear cloth face coverings or masks when in the presence of other staff or participants.
- Adult participants and youth participants over the age of 5 will be required to wear a park when indoors and when in the presence of other staff or participants. Participants will be encouraged to wear masks when outdoors, as activities allow. Masks should only be worn by individuals over the age of two years.
- Cloth masks are acceptable, and disposable masks can be provided by Dakota County as needed for those participants who are able to wear masks.
- For those participants who are not able to wear masks, physical distancing of six feet will be maintained whenever possible.
- Resources on mask wearing can be found here:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#masks>

Physical Distancing

- Staff and participants will maintain a 6 foot physical distance between themselves and others.
- Spaces will be marked with visual cues to provide understanding of distancing needs. Due to state guidelines, and to allow for safe physical distancing during program activities, group size will be limited in programs to 15 participants/staff while inside and 25 participants/staff for outdoor activities. Registration will be required to ensure appropriate group sizes.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- All indoor and outdoor spaces will be equipped with disinfecting spray and wipes.
- Facilities, including restrooms, used by participants will be cleaned daily by maintenance staff following COVID-19 protocols.
- Program staff will wipe down high touch surfaces immediately prior to and after a 1-2 hour program. For any program longer than 2 hours, staff will wipe down high touch surfaces every 2 hours.
- The use of shared equipment will be minimized as much as possible. Shared equipment will be disinfected between use.

Health Screening

- Staff are required to complete a health screening daily.
- Participants will be asked to self-screen and stay home if they are exhibiting a new cough, fever or shortness of breath. Or if they have been in exposed to someone who has been diagnosed or is suspected to have COVID-19.
- If participants become ill during a program, the participant will be asked to leave the program. If that is not possible, space will be provided to isolate the participant in, until participant is able to leave program.

Program Changes

- Programs may be relocated to different facilities to reduce interaction of program participants and staff with the general public.
- Curriculum and activities have been adapted to allow for physical distancing and to occur outside whenever possible.
- As much as possible, equipment will be assigned to a participant and used solely by that participant. When shared equipment is the only available option, equipment will be disinfected between use.
- Registration will be required to ensure proper group size.
- Participants will be required to sign a program waiver.
- Programs will be held outside as much as possible.

Contact Information

- If a participant or staff person is diagnosed with COVID-19 and believes they attended a program while contagious, please contact Dakota County Parks outdoor education program at 651.554.6536 or parkseducation@co.dakota.mn.us.

Resources

[MDH COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs](#)

[MN DNR COVID-19 Outdoor Recreation, Facilities and Public Guidelines](#)