

## Guidelines for *Playgrounds* During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*\*Guidelines are updated frequently to align with modifications  
from the CDC and executive orders.\**



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These guidelines are intended for application in playground and recreational areas. The foundation guidelines is the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)'s Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities - Protect Yourself and Others from COVID-19](#).

All organizations have to determine how best to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in their community. In order to successfully assist in keeping the public health during the pandemic, everyone individually and collectively should actively participate in the core recommendations:

Playground owners or operators should establish routine cleaning and sanitizing schedules for all playground equipment. Playground owners or operators should also, as much as possible, monitor playground usage and encourage adequate social distancing and other safety measures.

While it may not be feasible to clean or sanitize playground equipment between individual users or for all playground equipment use to be monitored on an ongoing basis, a regular schedule for cleaning and disinfection is recommended.

It is recommended that signage is installed at each playground or play area location, notifying users of the potential risks and recommended safety precautions they should take before, during and after the use of playground equipment.

Below is an example sign with recommended language. Playground owners or operators may impose additional safety measures at their own discretion. Also, DHEC offers COVID-19 education and outreach materials such as general [signage and flyers](#).

—Example Sign—

**USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**

**Parents, by allowing your kids to use this playground,  
you assume all risks associated with the COVID-19 virus.**

**If you choose to use this playground, follow the 3 W's:  
Wash hands, wear masks, and watch distance.**

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The best way to avoid COVID-19 is to practice social distancing of six feet or more. This may be difficult to do on a playground, especially with young children.

Playgrounds are not routinely cleaned or sanitized. Studies have shown the virus can live on surfaces, including wood, plastic, rubber and metal, for varied lengths of time.

### **If you choose to use the playground, please follow the guidelines listed below:**

- To the greatest extent possible, practice social distancing of 6 feet or more from individuals that do not live in your household;
- Only interact with people in your household;
- Wear a face covering or mask at all times while on the playground (do not use on children under two years old, people with difficulty breathing, or people who cannot remove the mask themselves);
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth or nose;
- Have kids wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or longer before and after playground use;
- Adults and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer before and after playground use and frequently during play: Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and rub hands together until dry, if soap and water are not readily available.
- Do not use playground equipment if others are already using it;
- Remain courteous and respectful of others at all times;
- Consider bringing your own disinfecting wipes to disinfect hand-hold surfaces prior to play.

**DISCLAIMER:** The information provided in this document is for general informational purposes and to help you make informed decisions. Notwithstanding any and all Federal and State requirements, re-opening and resuming activities are at your own discretion.

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