

Reopening Protocol for Outdoor Playgrounds

Recent Updates:

11/23/20: Updated to clarify that outdoor playgrounds located in residential settings that are not open to the public may reopen. Playgrounds need not be operated by city, state, county or federal government in order to reopen for use.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, to allow certain venues to safely reopen. The requirements below are specific to Outdoor Playgrounds permitted to be open by the Order of the State Public Health Officer. In addition to the conditions imposed on these specific venues by the Governor, these venues must also be in compliance with the conditions laid out in this Checklist.

This protocol applies to outdoor playgrounds located in parks, campgrounds, and other locations. Indoor playgrounds and family entertainment centers are not currently allowed to open.

An outdoor playground is defined as those playgrounds which are located fully outdoors, free for entry and use, designed primarily to serve nearby residents within a half a mile and typically includes recreational equipment, like play structures, slides, swings, etc. intended to enrich children's physical health and development. Outdoor playgrounds can provide state-mandated outdoor space for preschools, but their use should be scheduled in advance to avoid overlap with the public or with other schools.

City and County agencies reserve the right to keep a playground closed if infection control or physical distancing requirements cannot be safely adhered to.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document and related guidance.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures to ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

All Outdoor Playgrounds covered by this guidance must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Facility name:

Facility Address:

A. MEASURES TO ENSURE PHYSICAL DISTANCING

- For play structures or areas that can hold more than 1 child, consider marking with tape or other visual indicators to help children assess whether they are 6 feet apart.
- Caregivers/Adults are reminded that they are required to keep children from different households at least 6 feet apart.
- If there is a pre-scheduled activity that will access the playground, the playground must be closed to the broader public during that time.
- Childcare programs, schools, out-of-school time programs and other programs for children and youth where children must remain in cohorts may not use playgrounds during times when they are open to the public. However, if the playground operator permits, the childcare, school or other program may reserve a time for the exclusive use of the playground by the program. While on the playground, cohorts must maintain separation and avoid mixing.

B. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Visitors arriving at the playground are reminded through posted signs to wear a face covering at all times while at the playground. This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Only individuals who have been instructed not to wear a face covering by their medical provider are exempt from wearing one but should consider the risks to themselves and others before deciding to come to an outdoor playground.
- [Signage](#) should also be posted at the playground stating that visitors with symptoms should not enter the premises.
- To the extent feasible, provide handwashing stations or sanitizer to facilitate hand hygiene, especially during times of heavy usage. Use a hand sanitizer containing (60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol). Never use hand sanitizers with methanol due to its high toxicity to both children and adults.
- Parents, caregivers, and adult supervisors should be prepared to provide hand sanitizer to their children before and after use of playground equipment.
- When choosing cleaning chemicals, playground operators should use products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved N list and follow product instructions. Use disinfectants labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, diluted household bleach solutions (5 tablespoons per gallon of water), or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol that are appropriate for the surface. Provide employees training on manufacturer's directions and Cal/OSHA requirements for safe use. Workers using cleaners or disinfectants should wear gloves and other protective equipment as required by the product.
- Make sure all workers have been trained to use and have an adequate supply of all-purpose cleaners and disinfectants, when needed.

C. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC

- Online outlets of the playground (website, social media, etc.) provide clear information about, current protocols, required use of face coverings, infection control practices and physical distancing requirements.
- Facility operators should post signage at all outdoor playgrounds to remind visitors of the following physical distancing and infection control requirements:

- Everyone 2 yrs of age or older should wear a face covering at all times while at the playground
- Stay home if you are sick with fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.
- No eating or drinking is allowed at the playground, to ensure face masks are worn at all times.
- Adults or Caregivers are required to monitor their children and ensure that they maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others that are not part of their household.
- Wash or sanitize hands before and after your visit to the playground.
- Visits should be limited to 30 minutes when others are in the playground.
- Elderly individuals and those persons with underlying medical conditions should be reminded to avoid the playground when others are present.

Any additional measures not included above should be listed on separate page, which the business should attach to this document.

You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:

Business Contact Name:

Phone number:

Date Last Revised:

Retired - Not in Effect