



Town of Adams • Massachusetts 01220

Inspectional Services

ADAMS TOWN HALL
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Public Health Order ~ Use of Town Parks, Playgrounds and Athletic fields

Revised & Updated April 27, 2021

On March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak; and, on March 13, 2020, the Town of Adams issued a similar Declaration of a Local State of Emergency recognizing that COVID-19 poses a significant, immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare of people residing, working and visiting within the Town.

On May 18, 2020, the Commonwealth began a phased approach to the reopening of businesses and offices, and on June 6, 2020, the Commonwealth authorized the opening of parks, playgrounds and athletic fields as well as authorizing certain outdoor recreational areas and certain outdoor organized youth and adult amateur sports activities. Such activities, however, are available at the discretion of the managing municipality.

Therefore, pursuant to Chapter 111, Sections 6, 30, 31, 104 and/or 122, of the Massachusetts General Laws, this Order shall replace the related Public Health Order dated August 5, 2020.

1. Unless otherwise specified in outdoor organized youth and adult amateur sports activities guidelines/standards issued by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, gatherings that bring together more than ten (10) persons into close proximity in any confined indoor or outdoor space with less than 1,000 square feet. There are other standards for unenclosed outdoor spaces, or for indoor spaces having greater than 1,000 square feet.

2. Gatherings such as, but not limited to, street festivals, agricultural festivals, walk-a-thons, road races and bike races, and other outdoor organized athletic or recreational events that gather large numbers of participants or spectators outdoors are prohibited without submission of a Covid-19 Safety Plan 10-days ahead of the scheduled activity which lists the unique conditions of the operator's facility and planned activities; provided, however, that outdoor gatherings for the purpose of political expression are permitted.

3. All persons over the age of 2 must wear a face-covering in public places and while they attend outdoor gatherings (whether or not they have been vaccinated), unless they are prevented from wearing a face covering due to a medical or disabling condition. Unless of the same household cohort, all persons are required to avoid close personal contact with others to prevent spreading the virus or its variant.

4. This Order does not prohibit gatherings of more than 10 people in an unenclosed, outdoor space such as a park, backyard, athletic field, or parking lot, provided that (a) every person in attendance is able to regularly maintain at least 6-feet of distance from others in attendance and (b) the type of gathering at issue has not been prohibited or the outdoor space in which the gathering will take place has not been closed to the public by previous Order designating it as a Phase III or Phase IV enterprise or venue.

5. The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail remains open for use with proper physical distancing except for those sections incrementally closed for rehabilitation.

6. The Plunkett Field shall remain CLOSED for activities outside of school use; however, the children's playground equipment may be used by supervised children and such use is at the users own risk (users shall ensure proper physical distancing and personal hygiene).

7. Quality St. Park may be used for leisure activities with proper physical distancing; the children's playground equipment may be used by supervised children and such use is at the users own risk (users shall ensure proper physical distancing and personal hygiene).

8. Reid Field may be used after approved Facility Use Request; however, the children's playground equipment may be used by supervised children and such use is at the users own risk (users shall ensure proper physical distancing and personal hygiene).

9. Renfrew Field may be used after approved Facility Use Request; however, the children's playground equipment may be used by supervised children and such use is at the users own risk (users shall ensure proper physical distancing and personal hygiene). The basketball courts and skate/skateboard/bike park shall remain CLOSED.

10. Russell Field and the Town Common shall remain CLOSED for rehabilitation; this Order includes the children's playground equipment at Russell Field as remaining CLOSED.

11. Siara St. Park may be used for leisure activities with proper physical distancing.

12. Valley St. Field may be used after approved Facility Use Request.

13. Intra-team and inter-team play, scrimmages, organized games and tournaments may or may not be allowed (dependent upon the most recent standards published by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and keeping in mind that these activities are emphatically at discretion of the local public health officials). Restroom and concession facilities shall remain closed unless by special Facility Use Request for a significant event [such as allowed events, fund-raisers, festivals, tournaments, etc.]. All youth and adult sports activities organizers shall submit game schedules 2-weeks in advance.

14. In conjunction with the Facility Use Request form, the organized youth and adult amateur sports activity leaders must submit a Health & Safety Plan attesting compliance with measures identified in the standards promulgated by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

This Public Health Order shall remain in effect until officially rescinded. Please be informed that violators could be fined not more than \$1,000.00 for violations of this Order; each event or day of non-compliance constitutes a separate violation.

If you would like to appeal this decision, you may make appeal, in writing, to the Adams Board of Health, 8 Park Street, Adams, MA 01220, within seven (7) days of posting/receipt of this notice. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Sincerely,



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