

SUMMARY OF KEY COVID-19 MITIGATIONS FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMERCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

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This document summarizes current key requirements and guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation practices applicable to commercial service providers (i.e., concessioners, commercial use authorization holders, and leaseholders) operating in National Park Service (NPS) units: vaccination and testing; mask-wearing and physical distancing, reporting, closures, and modified operations.

This guidance is not intended to be a comprehensive treatment of all requirements. Commercial Service providers are independently responsible for understanding and complying with all applicable laws including local, state and federal public health standards.

Requirements and guidelines for COVID-19 mitigation practices are evolving as the COVID-19 circumstances change. Park superintendents and commercial service providers should monitor internal and external site websites to ensure they have the most up-to-date information. This summary and other guidance will be updated whenever requirements and guidelines change.

COVID-19 VACCINATION AND TESTING

Employee Vaccination. There are currently no active federal requirements for the vaccination of commercial service provider employees.

On December 7, 2021, a court order enjoined the federal government from implementing EO 14042, *Ensuring Adequate COVID Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors*, including federal contractor employee vaccination requirements. As a result, the NPS is currently taking no action to implement or enforce the provisions of this EO, absent any further direction for the Department of Interior. This includes situations where the commercial service provider authorization (concession contracts, commercial use authorizations, leases) was issued before December 7, 2021, and contains a clause implementing requirements of the EO (See <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/concessions/index.htm>.)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has also withdrawn the vaccination and testing standard issued on November 5, 2021, to protect unvaccinated employees of large employers with 100 or more employees. (See <https://www.osha.gov/coronavirus/ets2>.)

Vaccination continues to be the best means to protect commercial service provider employees, NPS employees, and the public from COVID-19 illness.

Vaccination Attestation or Testing. There are currently no NPS requirements for commercial service providers to require attestation that they are fully vaccinated or any testing requirements. Commercial service providers may implement vaccination, attestation or testing requirements for their employees as an independent business decision.

Recreation Visitor/Customer Proof of Vaccination or Testing. There are no NPS requirements that recreation visitors/commercial service provider customers entering commercial service provider facilities or using commercial service provider services must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. Depending on the jurisdiction, states or local government agencies may have customer proof of vaccination or testing requirements that could apply to commercial service providers in parks. Commercial service providers should consult with their superintendent regarding such matters. Commercial service providers should also consult with their park superintendent if they are considering before implementing such requirements for their customers as an independent business decision.

MASK-WEARING

Mask-wearing - General. Per guidance issued by the [Department of the Interior](#), and NPS policy, parks now use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) in the county where the park is located to determine when masks are required to be worn in NPS buildings. Per current NPS policy, Individuals including employees, customers, and other members of the public who are 2 years or older must wear a mask indoors in NPS controlled buildings when the COVID-19 Community Level is high. (See: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/partnerships/publichealthforpartners.htm>.)

Although commercial service providers are not required to follow the NPS mask-wearing guidance in their assigned buildings as they are not NPS-controlled, following this guidance is encouraged to provide a consistent approach to managing COVID-19 risk throughout the park.

Mask-wearing by commercial service provider employees, partner employees, or customers may be otherwise required where a state, local, tribal, or territorial government imposes such requirements dependent upon the jurisdiction. Commercial service providers may also require their employees to wear masks as an independent business decision when not otherwise required. Any individual who feels more comfortable wearing a mask may still do so, regardless of COVID-19 Community Level and consistent with NPS protocols.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Flexibilities Regarding Occupancy and Physical Distancing. Physical distancing limitations are currently not in place for commercial service facilities and operations.

ISOLATION and QUARANTINE

Isolation. Per updated guidance from the CDC, commercial service provider employees, partner employees, and customers should isolate from others when it is confirmed that an individual has COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals should also isolate themselves if sick or when they suspect that they have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results. Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and never developed symptoms may return to work on or after day 6 of their positive COVID-19 test (day 0 being the day the individual was tested). Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and had symptoms may return to work on or after day six from the onset of symptoms (day 0 being the day of symptom onset) once they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their other symptoms are improving. Regardless of when isolation is ended, individuals should avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19, wear a high-quality mask indoors around others at home and in public, and do not travel until at least day 6 provided you wear a high-quality mask. Commercial service providers must also include procedures for employees or guests/customers being identified as sick or suspected of being sick from COVID-19 in their COVID-19 plan following known exposure and isolation and quarantine guidelines. The CDC isolation and exposure calculator can be accessed at [What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19 | CDC](#).

Quarantine. When exposed to an individual with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, individuals should wear a mask around others for ten days and test on day five.

REPORTING

Commercial service providers are no longer required to report individual suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19. However, as with any infectious disease, COVID-19 case clusters should still be reported to the Public Health Department. See [Disease Reporting \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#) for more information.

CLOSURES and MODIFIED OPERATIONS

At this time, other than as outlined above, NPS does not have any general facility closure or modified operations requirements in place regarding COVID-19. If circumstances change, guidance will be re-established on how to effect such changes in operations and document those changes in contracts and operating and maintenance plans.

OPERATION-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Housing. Based on the updates to DOI's COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan, previous guidance regarding shared housing is no longer in effect. However, concessioners with in-park concessioner housing must have plans to meet known exposure and illness, including isolation and quarantine precautions outlined above. Commercial service providers may require employees to wear masks in housing they operate as an independent business decision.

Transportation Systems. CDC currently recommends but does not require wearing face masks while on public transportation, including commercial service-provided equipment such as buses, vans, boats and ferries, trains, and aircraft. (See: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/masks-public-transportation.html>). Commercial service providers and partners may require employees to wear masks on transportation systems they operate as an independent business decision. Commercial service providers may encourage but may not require mask wearing by customers on indoor transportation systems they operate, particular in times of high community transmission.

(Note that per [Department of Interior \(DOI\) COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan](#) (Ver. 6), all individuals, including employees, contractor employees, official visitors, and members of the public who are 2 years or older must wear a high-quality mask or respirator in government-operated (as differentiated from commercial service provider operated) aircraft, boats and other maritime transportation conveyances, and buses with multiple occupants regardless of COVID-19 Community Levels).