



Interim Guidance for Ski Lodges (November 23, 2020)

Guidelines for Conducting Business: Any scenario in which many people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. All organizations and programs that gather groups of people should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission. The guidance below will help ski lodges to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This guidance covers the following topics:

- Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure
- Cloth Face Coverings
- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Monitoring for Symptoms
- Protecting Vulnerable Populations
- Combatting Misinformation
- Water and Ventilation Systems
- Additional Resources

Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

[Social distancing](#) is one of the only tools we currently have to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing (“physical distancing”) means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people; do not gather in groups, especially when indoors; stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings. Phase 3 includes several requirements and recommendations to support social distancing in spaces where the public may gather.

Ski lodges are **required** to:

- Limit occupancy on the ski slopes to groups of people at or below the current outdoor mass gathering limit.
 - By way of example, if the outdoor mass gathering limit is 50, then no more than 50 individuals can be gathered together one place at the skiing area. Multiple groups- with 50 people or less- gathered in different areas are allowed as long as adequate distance is maintained between groups, and between individuals within each group.
- Follow the [DHHS Interim Guidance for Restaurants](#) for reopening restaurants or concession stands, including limiting occupancy to 50%.
- Follow the [NCDHHS Guidance for Retail Businesses](#) for reopening shops, rental shops, ski schools locations, and businesses including limiting occupancy to 50%.
- Meeting halls, conference rooms, amphitheatres, multipurpose rooms, and other gathering spaces within ski lodges must follow [NCDHHS Interim Guidance for Meeting Rooms and Event Spaces](#), including limiting occupancy to 30% or 100 people, whichever is less.
- Post the reduced “Emergency Maximum Capacity” for each applicable area in a conspicuous place. [Sign templates](#) are available in English and Spanish on NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.

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- Post signage reminding attendees and staff about social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others). [Know Your W's](#) sign templates are available in English and Spanish on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Provide floor markings to help guests, except from the same household or group, stay 6 feet apart in general areas where people gather, including if they are waiting outdoors due to limits on indoor capacity.
- Have ski lift operators limit the number of guests within each vehicle or car to either:
 - Have all the guests within a vehicle or car be people who came into the ride loading area together as part of the same group of friends or family; or
 - Ensure six feet of social distancing between each group of friends or family within the vehicle or car.
- Clearly mark designated entry and exit points; if a building has only one entry/exit point, try to stagger entry and exit times if possible.
- Allow staff to work remotely as much as possible.
- Stagger shifts when remote working is not possible.
- Develop and use systems that allow for online, email, or telephone transactions.
- Develop reservation times to the extent possible to help limit wait times and lines outdoors during reduced capacity. Also develop reservation system for rental equipment to manage rental equipment.
- Close areas in lobbies and other areas that encourage congregation. Remove any soft surfaces in waiting areas such as pillows that are difficult to clean and disinfect.
- Install barriers, plexiglass, or other barriers for information desks and reservation counters where patrons and guests may be within 6 feet of employees.
- Develop procedures that allow lessons to be completed with social distancing observed, including cancelling group lessons if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- Alter queues for activities such as skiing and snow tubing to minimize congregating and crowds at the end of the course.

Cloth Face Coverings

There is growing evidence that wearing a face covering can help reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially because people may be infected with the virus and not know it.

Ski lodges are **required** to:

- Have all employees wear a face covering, unless the worker states that an exception applies.
- Have all guests wear a face covering, unless the guest states that an exception applies, or they are actively eating, drinking or outdoors AND 6ft or more away from any people outside of their household.
- Visit the [NC DHHS COVID-19 response site](#) for more information about the face covering guidance and access sign templates that are available in English and Spanish.

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Provide cloth face coverings for employees and ask them to properly launder using hot water and a high heat dryer between uses.
- Provide disposable face coverings to guests to wear while in the establishment.

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Cleaning and Hygiene

Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of transmission.

Ski lodges are **required** to:

- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, key pads and shared tablets) with an [EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increase disinfection during peak times or high customer density times.

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at all communal sinks and in all rooms.
- Promote frequent use of hand washing and hand sanitizer for staff and guests. Require handwashing of staff immediately upon reporting to work, after contact with individuals, after performing cleaning and disinfecting activities, and frequently throughout the day.
- Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance and other areas.
- Provide tissues for proper cough and sneeze hygiene.
- Increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety risk.
- Provide protocol for disinfecting shared ski equipment. Provide adequate contact time for disinfectant on rented equipment between customers. Ensure employees wash hands between handling returned ski equipment and clean equipment for new customers.

Monitoring for Symptoms

Conducting regular screening for symptoms can help reduce exposure to COVID-19. Ski lodge staff should be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

If staff develop symptoms, they should notify their supervisor and return home. More information on [how to monitor for symptoms](#) is available from the CDC.

Ski lodges are **required** to:

- Conduct daily [symptom](#) screening (use this standard interview questionnaire) ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) of employees at entrance to workplace with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to [isolate](#). (See duration below.)
- Employees who have symptoms when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.
- [Per CDC guidelines](#), if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, the employee should be excluded from work until:
 - At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms AND
 - No fever for at least 72 hours since recovery (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) AND
 - Other symptoms have improved (e.g., coughing, shortness of breath)
- [Per CDC guidelines](#), if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

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- Require symptomatic employees to wear masks until leaving the facility. Cleaning and disinfecting procedure should be implemented by designated personnel following [CDC guidelines](#) once sick employee leaves.
- Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter, such as [Know Your Ws/Stop if You Have Symptoms](#) flyers (English - [Color](#), [Black & White](#); Spanish - [Color](#), [Black & White](#)).

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Have a plan in place for immediately removing employees from work if symptoms develop.
- Establish and enforce sick leave policies to prevent the spread of disease, including:
 - o Enforcing employees staying home if sick.
 - o Encouraging liberal use of sick leave policy.
 - o Expanding paid leave policies to allow employees to stay home when sick.
- Provide employees with information on help lines to access information or other support in reference to COVID-19, e.g. 211 and Hope4NC Helpline (1-855-587-3463).

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Information on who is at higher risk for severe disease is available from the [CDC](#) and [NCDHHS](#).

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Designate a specific time for persons at higher risk to access the ski slopes, dining areas, or other communal spaces without the general population (such as early morning, or late afternoon).
- Enable employees to self-identify as high risk for severe disease and reassign work to minimize face-to-face contact and to allow them to maintain a distance of six feet from others, or to telework if possible.

Combating Misinformation

Help make sure that the information your employees is getting is coming directly from reliable resources. Use resources from a trusted source like the [CDC](#) or [NCDHHS](#) to promote behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is recommended that ski lodges:

- Provide workers with education about COVID-19 strategies, using methods like videos, webinars, or FAQs. Some reliable sources include [NC DHHS COVID-19](#), [Know Your W's: Wear, Wait, Wash](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Latest Updates](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Materials & Resources](#)
- Promote informational helplines like 211 and Hope4NC and other [Wellness Resources](#).
- Put up signs and posters, such as those found [Know Your W's: Wear, Wait, Wash](#) and those found [Social Media Toolkit for COVID-19](#).

Water and Ventilation Systems

Reduced use of water and ventilation systems can pose their own health hazards. There is increased risk for Legionella and other waterborne pathogens from stagnant or standing water.

Before reopening, it is recommended that ski lodges:

- Follow the CDC's [Guidance](#) for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation to minimize the risk of diseases associated with water.

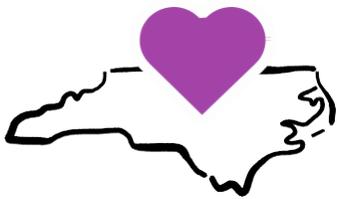
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- ❑ Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to people using the facility.

Additional Resources

- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA): [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA): [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security: [Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#)



#StayStrongNC

**Staying apart brings us together.
Protect your family and neighbors.**

Learn more at nc.gov/covid19.



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