RESTARTING MAINE’S ECONOMY
COVID-19 Guided Hunting, Fishing, Boating and Outdoor Activities

The State of Maine has adopted a staged approach, supported by science, public health expertise and industry collaboration, to allow Maine businesses to safely open when the time is right. The plan is available at www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine.

This is one of many industry guidance documents that the State is providing for businesses so they can reopen safely. Please make sure you pair this document with the general guidance document that applies to all industries, which is available at General Guidance. Everyone’s goal is to allow guide businesses to operate while keeping guides and clients safe and healthy. Please use common sense and keep the goal in mind.

Applies from July 6, 2020 until updated (All Counties)

Registered Maine Guide Activity Guidance

Pre-Trip Considerations

• Visitors from outside Maine must follow the Keep Maine Healthy plan. Effective June 26, people who are not residents of Maine or from other states exempted from quarantine requirements, must have received a negative COVID-19 test result that meets the Keep Maine Healthy requirements or they must have already completed their 14 day quarantine in Maine. (Updated July 6, 2020)

• All clients should be from the same household unless they can comply with current standards for number of people and physical distancing.

• Communicate with clients in advance regarding new operational procedures and post new procedures on your website if possible.

• Limit cash and paper receipt transactions; Promote “contactless” payment options (e.g., online payments, pay by phone options, RFID credit and debit cards, Apple Pay, Google Pay, etc.). (updated June 18, 2020)

• Under no circumstances should a guide, client or employee participate in a guided trip if they show signs of illness.

• Avoid greeting others by shaking hands.

Transporting Clients

• Guided activities will allow for transportation of a client in the guide’s vehicle provided protective masks are worn. If multiple clients ride in the guide’s vehicle they should be from the same household unless the vehicle is large enough to separate everyone 6 feet apart.
• Sanitize vehicle with EPA registered products (see below) after each trip paying particular attention to “high-touch” surfaces.

Trip Safety/Cleaning Preparation

• For specific guidance on sanitizing a vehicle used to transport clients refer to: Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles

• Clients should provide their own face coverings, water bottles, sunscreen, and insect repellent while in the field.

• Guides and clients should wear face coverings when indoors or when unable to maintain physical distancing. Note that a “buff” or neck gaiter constitutes a face covering.

• Guides will have readily available: hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, cleaning products and spare face coverings on every trip.

• Extra care must be taken when close contact will occur, such as while in a small boat or canoe. Maintain physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals as much as possible. Face coverings must be worn if this is not possible.

• Sanitize equipment used by clients with EPA registered products (see below) after each trip paying particular attention to “high-touch” surfaces.

• Equipment provided for client use such as fishing rods, paddles, life jackets, etc., must be sanitized before and after use. (A sample of a sanitization solution can be found here: https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/covid-19-disinfecting-with-bleach) (updated March 13, 2020)

• Use separate equipment for guide demonstrations.

• Should a client become ill on a guided trip, consult with EMS or a healthcare facility for immediate guidance.

Meal Preparation as Part of the Guided Trip

• Guides may provide food in accordance with Restaurant Guidance (updated June 19, 2020). Many of the provisions within the restaurant guidelines may not apply in a remote setting, please apply those that fit your specific operation. Many of the provisions in the guidelines will not apply in a remote setting, please apply those that fit your specific operation.

Overnight Trips (updated June 19, 2020).

• Guides will be allowed to provide overnight trips in accordance with Remote Camping Guidance (updated May 7, 2020) and may provide meal preparation in accordance with Restaurant Guidance (updated June 19, 2020). Many of the provisions in the restaurant guidelines will not apply in a remote setting, please apply those that fit your specific operation. Otherwise overnight trips are not allowed.

• Effective June 26, when conducting overnight trips, guides must collect a Certificate of Compliance form (on paper or electronically) as a prerequisite to participation from people who are not from Maine or not from states exempted, indicating they have received a negative COVID-19 test result, that they will quarantine in Maine for 14 days before boarding, or that they have already completed their quarantine in Maine. Guide businesses should keep these records for 30 days.
Sporting Camps

- Sporting camps should follow the guidance for Restaurant Guidance (updated June 19, 2020) and Lodging (Open to residents of Maine or people from other states exempted from quarantine requirements. (Updated July 6, 2020)