

****DRAFT****

EGLE Guidance to Opening Campgrounds

There is little national or other State Guidance currently available on reopening camping facilities for reference.

It is important to note that Michigan's federally operated campgrounds are currently slated to open July 1st. Also, MDNR has indicated once the restrictions are lifted, it will take approximately 5 weeks to be up and running for state owned campgrounds. Many private campgrounds have been preparing for opening already so they can open immediately once restrictions are lifted.

- Regarding social distancing, it could be easy to allow camping on every other site for some campgrounds. However, campgrounds with existing reservations, seasonally rented sites, or campground condominiums may not be able to accommodate this as easily. Depending on the site layout or site sizes, distancing may be obtained without restricting site use.
- Areas that lend to group gatherings should be limited or closed. This would include pavilions, playgrounds, beaches, or activity areas. In addition, many campgrounds rent areas for events (grad parties, family reunions, work party), which should initially be prohibited. These areas could also be addressed through state or federal guidance on mass gatherings.
- Bathhouse usage should have limited access. There should be procedures or controls in place to prevent gathering.
- Increased cleaning of all surfaces and common touch points is necessary. Campgrounds may want to track this to be able to document cleaning frequency. This would be critical for high traffic areas, such as a hand pumps in primitive campgrounds, bathhouses, privies, etc.
- For those campgrounds that do not have a formal reservation system, they may want to implement some form of camper check-in/registration should a COVID-19 positive case be identified as being at the campground.
- Temporary Campgrounds: Since most temporary campground licenses are requested to provide shelter at mass gathering events or overflow sites at licensed campgrounds during peak usage times, it does not seem prudent to issue temporary campground licenses initially. This will further assist with social distancing and prevent gathering/crowding.