

# COVID-19 Alert

**BUSINESSES MUST SUBMIT A SELF-CERTIFICATION PRIOR TO REOPENING ON MAY 20**

**MAY 2020**

Governor Lamont, in conjunction with the Department of Economic and Community Development (“DECD”), has issued guidelines to allow certain Connecticut businesses to resume operations beginning on May 20. The goal of the guidelines is to proactively protect public health and speed up the pace of economic, educational, and community recovery while restoring Connecticut’s quality of life by prioritizing employee and customer safety. The guidelines identify five different categories of businesses that will be allowed to reopen in a limited capacity on May 20:

- Hair salons and Barbershops (On May 19, 2020, the Governor rescinded the opening for hair salons and barbershops.)
- Museums and Zoos (outdoor only)
- Offices
- Restaurants (outdoor only)
- Retail and Malls

As of May 19, 2020, certain businesses may conduct “Outdoor Recreation Activities.” Governor Lamont and the DECD have issued [“General Business Rules”](#) that will apply only to these Outdoor Recreation Activities. Outdoor Recreation Activities are defined as the following:

- Equestrian (subject to Department of Agriculture guidance)
- Mountain Biking
- Camping
- Boat Tours (subject to 5 passengers)
- Charter Fishing (subject to 5 passengers)
- Sport Fishing
- Go Kart Racing (bring your own, no rentals)
- Golf
- Driving Ranges

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- Tennis
- 1:1 Training, outdoors maintain 6 feet
- Race Tracks (practice only, no spectators)
- Campgrounds (subject to Department of Public Health guidance)
- Outdoor Shooting Range
- Kayaking
- Dirt Biking (practice only)
- Mini Golf

Governor Lamont stressed that the decision for those businesses to reopen during this phase rests with each individual business owner – owners are not required to open; however, if they do, **they must follow the rules as prescribed**. All businesses subject to these rules (those who are reopening) will be **required to self-certify** prior to opening on May 20. Only businesses reopening during this first phase are apparently required to self-certify and comply with these requirements. The link to certify your business can be found [here](#).

#### **APPLICABLE RULES FOR REOPENING BUSINESSES**

All businesses set to reopen on May 20 must comply with each of the following requirements:

- Capacity limit of 50% for businesses that reopen
- Strict cleaning and disinfection protocols in all settings
- Those who can work from home should continue to do so
- Those in high-risk groups (comorbidities) and over the age of 65 should continue to stay safe and stay home
- Face masks should continue to be worn in public by everyone at all times
- Social gatherings remain restricted to a maximum of five people
- Create a plan for reopening and share with all employees
- Appoint a program administrator who is accountable for implementing the rules
- Institute a training program and ensure employee participation
  - Training shall be provided at no cost and during work hours
  - Weekly refreshers are required
  - The training shall include the rules outlined in the CT DECD Reopening Guidance and protocols on how to clean and use cleaning products
- Develop a cleaning plan and checklists to incorporate these guidelines

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- Complete a thorough cleaning of the facility prior to reopening including but not limited to bathrooms, tools, and equipment
- Stagger shifts, breaks, and lunch times to minimize contact between employees
- Maintain a log of employees on the premises for contact tracing
- Post clear signage that reinforces new policies, including social distancing protocols, Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”) requirements, and that employees or customers experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 may not enter
- Increase ventilation by using central air or by opening doors and windows
- Install visual social distancing markers (6ft apart)
- Ensure employees do not share equipment to the extent possible
- Install touchless appliances wherever possible
- Post clear signage that includes the State hotline (211) to report violations
- Provide adequate PPE to all employees
- Customers and patrons must provide their own face masks and wear them at all times possible
- Make hand sanitizer available at the entrance and make sanitizer/wipes available near commonly used surfaces
- Ensure employees are washing hands regularly
- Clean and disinfect bathrooms multiple times a day and hourly during busy times; keep a cleaning log
- Complete the self-certification on the DECD website to receive a Reopen CT badge

The rules also state that employers should perform daily health checks on employees by asking them to confirm that they are not experiencing CDC-defined symptoms of COVID-19. If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the employee is required to inform the employer and to follow state testing and contact tracing protocols.

### **IMPORTANT INDUSTRY SPECIFIC RULES**

In addition to the rules described above, businesses in each of the five reopening sectors must adhere to [industry-specific rules](#) and protocols as described by Governor Lamont and the DECD. These businesses must implement these protocols before reopening. Employers must delay reopening until they are able to fully comply.

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