

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Renée D. Coleman-Mitchell, MPH
Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND DRINKING WATER BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2020-25

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Connecticut Campground Owners Association

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu
Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu in blue ink, dated 2020.

DATE: April 20, 2020

SUBJECT: Family Campgrounds – COVID 19 Updated Guidance

This circular letter replaces EHS Circular Letter # 2020-22 regarding family campgrounds, which the Department of Public Health's (DPH) Environmental Health and Drinking Water Section issued on April 1, 2020.

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide updated information regarding family campgrounds, many of which are scheduled to open shortly, including information regarding who may use these family campgrounds during the COVID-19 emergency.

Based on Governor Ned Lamont's issuance of Executive Order No. 7T, which prohibited non-essential lodging, as well as guidance from Governor Lamont's office, DPH and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) have determined that a family campground may allow the following individuals to live at the family campground during the COVID-19 emergency. Family campgrounds are closed to all other individuals, including transient and recreational campers:

1. Essential Workers.

- A. Health care workers, first responders, and other workers who work for an essential business pursuant to Executive Order No. 7H and implementing guidance issued by the DECD.
- B. To the extent not already included in Subparagraph A of this Paragraph, housing and accommodation for out-of-state workers engaged in transportation of materials, logistics,



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410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
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and construction associated with the delivery of health-related services, such as the development of COVID-19 alternative care sites, testing facilities, or research.

2. Owners. Individual who own a permanent structure in the family campground on which they pay property tax to the town in which the family campground is located.
3. Long-term Lease Holders. Individuals who have a long-term lease with the family campground. For purposes of this circular letter, the term “long-term lease” means a lease that an individual entered into with the family campground prior to Governor Lamont’s March 10, 2020 Declaration of Civil Preparedness and Public Health Emergencies and that has a lease-term of six-months or more.

In addition, the following requirements, some of which were proposed by the Connecticut Campground Owners Association, are applicable to all family campgrounds that open to one or more of the individuals referenced above, as well as the individuals when staying at such family campgrounds, during the COVID-19 emergency:

1. Everyone shall comply with Governor Lamont’s executive orders, including Executive Order 7N, which prohibits social and recreational gatherings of 6 or more people, and DECD guidance, including DECD’s guidance regarding “Stay Safe, Stay Home”.
2. Common restrooms and showers shall be closed and access to such restrooms and showers prohibited.
3. All public areas shall be closed.
4. Any contact with the family campground’s office shall be remote, if possible.
5. The family campground shall develop and implement an ongoing sanitation and cleaning program.
6. The family campground shall maintain on site a document containing the number of individuals in each category in the list above who stay at such family campground and the length of time such individuals stay. The document shall be available to any state or local official for inspection upon request.

Finally, pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Stat.* § 19a-131a(d), if any individual violates the provisions of any of Governor Lamont’s executive orders, the individual shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year, or both, for each offense.

- c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
Tommy Hyde, Director of Government Affairs and Special Projects, DECD
Brian Toal, Acting Section Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH