

**May 2020**

Dear bathing beach operator:

New York State is allowing the operation of bathing beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic with additional requirements. The additional requirements include reducing attendance, prohibiting group activities, keeping areas of social gathering closed, enforcing social distancing, requiring that masks be worn when social distancing is not possible, closing food and drink concession stands, and ensuring that staff levels are adequate to achieve these measures and to enforce crowd control.

Under the “Statewide Guidelines” heading of the [NYS Forward](#) webpages, you will find guidelines, a business affirmation form and a safety plan template for the operation of bathing beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic. New York State is requesting that you stay up to date with any changes to state and federal requirements related to bathing beach activities and incorporate those changes into your bathing beach operations.

To operate a bathing beach in Dutchess County during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following must first be accomplished:

1. A completed application for a permit to operate, must have been submitted to the Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH). You should have received the application in the mail.
2. A pre-operational inspection with a representative of DBCH must have been completed.
3. For bathing beach operations which include the operation of a public water system, public water system start-up procedures must have been completed and you must have received notification from DBCH that your water system is acceptable for operation.
4. You must read the NYS Interim Guidance for Beach Activities During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and complete and submit the Business Affirmation form online.
5. You must modify your operations to comply with any additional requirements from the State or County related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 and document these changes in a written safety plan which you will maintain on site.
6. You must have received notification from DBCH that all requirements have been met to allow the operation.
7. If you operate a municipal beach, you must also notify New York State of your intent to open the bathing beach via email ([OpenBeach2020@health.ny.gov](mailto:OpenBeach2020@health.ny.gov)).

Many certifying agencies are not holding recertification courses for CPR, first aid, lifeguarding and other aquatic courses because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Because of that New York State has issued a statewide variance extending the acceptance of required certifications beyond the State Sanitary Code specified durations for individuals working or volunteering at regulated swimming pools,

bathing beaches, recreational aquatic spray grounds, and children's camps. [Please refer to the Staff Certification Training Review Attestation Form \(.pdf\)](#) for details, and forward any completed attestations to DBCH by email at [ehs@dutchessny.gov](mailto:ehs@dutchessny.gov) or by fax at 845-486-3545.

Please visit <https://www.dutchessny.gov/coronavirus> for information on the COVID-19 pandemic. A COVID-19 fact sheet to distribute to your guests can be found at <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/Docs/COVID-19-Fact-Sheet-Dutchess-County.pdf>

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation during this difficult time. If you have questions, please contact DBCH at (845) 486-3404.

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