

SAFER AT HOME

SEACOAST BEACHES

Cooperative agreement among the State of New Hampshire and the Towns of Hampton, North Hampton, Rye, Seabrook, and New Castle to operate seacoast beaches during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guidance serves as a united way for all beach communities along the seacoast to address the issues of density, social distancing, while also adhering to public health protocols. The purpose is to open the beaches in a safe and controlled approach.

Safeguarding Guidance:

1. All beach businesses which are approved for operation (such as but not limited to, retail, food service, etc.) must do so in accordance with [Universal Guidelines](#) and as well as any [specific industry guidelines](#) approved by the Governor.
2. NH State Parks and Inland beaches shall operate in accordance with the Universal Guidance and [Guidance for State Parks](#).
3. In addition to strict adherence to the above as well as any applicable CDC guidelines, the State of New Hampshire sets forth the following measures to protect visitors and employees, including:

Visitor Protection:

1. SEACOAST BEACH (THE SAND) PLAN:

- a. All seacoast beaches will be open. All individuals must maintain a minimum six-foot distance between other groups at all times.
- b. All services required for ADA compliances will continue to be offered by State Parks.
- c. Social distancing and cleaning and disinfection protocols will be applied by NH State Parks for restroom operations. Congregating is not allowed in restroom facilities.

2. PARKING:

- a. No public parking along NH 1A and NH 1B on the seacoast route except in the State Park. All state owned public parking lots will be limited to 50% capacity.
- b. Business and beach employee parking and all state and town leased parking are not counted against capacity limits.
- c. Resident parking only is allowed on all town roads and at beach access points along NH 1A and NH 1B. Designated resident parking only on NH 1A and NH 1B should be maintained and clearly signed. Other than resident/permit parking, all Town Roads in Rye will be posted no parking.
- d. No drop offs are permitted along NH 1A and NH 1B to access the beaches, including but not limited to buses, taxis, ride service or private vehicles.



Management Adaptations:

1. STATE/TOWN COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION

- a. Coordinated effort to be established and operated by town public safety officials for all traffic electronic signage to update the general public.
- b. Appropriate signage (reader boards, highway indicators) will be utilized to communicate limitations on parking as well as when daily parking capacity is reached at State Beach lots. Signage to be appropriately located as to prevent unnecessary traffic congestion on NH 1A and NH 1B.
- c. Establish media campaign (print, TV/radio, as well as social media) that discloses the rules, restrictions and limitations to the general public. The Town, State Parks and all the partners will have information about the parking limitations on their websites and where applicable.

2. STATE/TOWN SPECIFIC GUIDANCE AND ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

- a. Hampton Beach Specific Guidance:
 - i. Bus tours & Other Public Transportation: Bus tours disallowed for passenger drop off. Drop-offs are prohibited except as follows: Traditional taxi service, beach industry employees, ride sharing organizations (ex. Uber and Lyft) are allowed for pick up/drop off but only after accepted "beach" hours in order to provide public safety and curb operating under the influence of Drugs and Alcohol.
 - ii. Traffic Control/Traffic Flow Along Ocean Blvd:
 1. To provide for a wider walking mall for individuals to properly socially distance, traffic between A to O Street (Allowing for access to State Lots along the ocean and daily trash pickup and business deliveries during certain hours).
 2. Ashworth Ave open to two way traffic between A to O Street.
 - iii. The CPS Parking Lot, commonly referred to as the South Lot, will be closed for parking after 8 PM.
 - iv. Hampton Beach State Park will close at 9 PM.
- b. Along with the common guideline directives in this document, each town and NH State Parks may develop more specific guidelines to implement this plan and add other more restrictive guidelines that would complement the overall strategy within their respective authorities.
- c. The Towns and State Parks will be responsible for communicating and publicizing such guidelines independently. These may include but not be limited to the following:
 - i. Rye
 1. Rye Beach Permit parking will be allowed along Sawyers Beach on NH 1A.
 - ii. North Hampton
 1. All town roads are closed to on street parking.
 2. No parking on NH 1A in the Town of North Hampton.



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3. State Parks will allow use of 100 % of the resident leased parking spaces.
- iii. New Castle
 1. Fort Stark and Fort Constitution remain closed to parking.
 - iv. Seabrook
 1. NH 1A parking lot north, which is state owned, will remain closed.
 2. During both the early stages of re-opening of the regional beaches and into the summer, there will be a coordinated effort around public safety headed up by local town public safety officials, New Hampshire Division of Public Health and assisted by the New Hampshire State Police as requested by individual towns.
 3. All parties agree that nature of the COVID-19 pandemic requires that this plan be reviewed on a weekly basis by all parties to provide ongoing coordination, evaluation of issues and address local operational needs.

