

RE-OPENING GUIDANCE FOR THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SEACOAST PHASE I



Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693

INTRODUCTION STATEMENT: 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 as soon as possible in a safe and controlled phased approach.

General Common Objectives for All Communities

1. PARKING

- a. No public parking along NH 1A and NH 1B on the seacoast route except in the State Park. All public parking lots, including town, state and privately operated, 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 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.

2. TRAFFIC AND PARKING COMMUNICATION PLAN

- 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.

3. OPERATING GUIDANCE

- a. All beach businesses must operate in accordance with all universal and specific industry guidelines as posted in the NH Governor’s Stay at Home 2.0 Re-opening Guidance.
- b. NH State Parks shall operate in accordance with the Stay at Home 2.0 Re-opening Guidance for State Parks.

4. SEACOAST BEACH (THE SAND) PLAN

- a. All seacoast beaches will be open for **only** transitory physical activity, including but not limited to walking, running, swimming, surfing, kayaking and paddle boarding. Sand sports are not permitted. All activities at the State Beaches will continue to be subject to administrative rules. Group size limited to 10 individuals.
- b. All services required for ADA compliances will continue to be offered by State Parks.
- c. Social distancing and sanitation protocols will be applied by NH State Parks for restroom operations.

5. ADDITIONAL TOWN AND STATE PARK GUIDANCE

- a. Along with the above common guideline directives, each town and NH State Parks can develop more specific guidelines to implement this plan and add other more restrictive guidelines that would complement the overall strategy within their respective authorities.

- Rye
 - 1. Rye Beach Permit parking will be allowed along Sawyers Beach on NH 1A.
- North Hampton
 - 1. All town roads are closed to on street parking.
 - 2. No parking on NH 1A in the Town of North Hampton.
 - 3. State Parks will allow use of 100 % of the resident leased parking spaces.
- New Castle
 - 1. Fort Stark and Fort Constitution remain closed to parking.
- Seabrook
 - 1. NH 1A parking lot north, which is state owned, will remain closed.

6. ENFORCEMENT COORDINATION

- a. 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.

7. PLAN REVIEW.

- a. The nature of the COVID19 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.