

Chester Bowl Winter Operations COVID-19 Pandemic Plan



Amendments

In response to [Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's Executive Order 20-99](#) Chester Bowl amended its pandemic plan to meet group recreation limitations and other measures included in the EO.

To view these amendments follow this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1p6bABj6feltDPafIIPb4x1ZKzDljwrwxucOn5iblNho/edit?usp=sharing>

Preface

The Chester Bowl Improvement Club has developed this plan in accordance with the Minnesota [Ski Area Association's \(MNSAA\) Pandemic Plan](#) which was submitted by Governor Tim Walz and the Stay Safe MN Task Force both of which have approved the plan.

In addition to the plan prepared by the MNSAA, the Chester Bowl Improvement Club referenced current guidelines from the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), documents included in the Stay Safe Minnesota order, and [Executive Order 20-74](#) governing outdoor recreation, including alpine skiing and snowboarding.

The Chester Bowl Improvement Club is committed to providing a safe and healthy recreation environment for all winter program participants, staff, and volunteers. To ensure that, we have developed the following Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Program participants, staff, and volunteers are all responsible for their personal health and play a role in implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 and that requires the full cooperation of everyone involved. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our community.

Program participants, volunteers, and staff are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this plan. Our staff and community are our most important assets. We are serious about safety and health.

This plan addresses hygiene and respiratory etiquette, social distancing, housekeeping, contact tracing measures, communication & training plan, and measures for monitoring the implementation & effectiveness of this plan.

General Prevention Measures

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Employee Screenings

Chester Bowl Improvement Club staff and volunteers are required to complete a screening before the start of each shift in accordance with [CBIC COVID-19 Winter Program Screening Plan](#). A staff that self-report having contact with individuals experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 will be disqualified from working and required to stay home in accordance with the [CBIC COVID-19 Employment Plan](#). Staff will receive paid sick leave in accordance with the [FFCRA](#) law.

Pre-screening

Program Participants are expected to monitor their health for two weeks before and during any days of planned participation in the 2020/2021 season. Families are encouraged to take temperatures daily and to log that information during this time. In addition to logging temperatures, parents are expected to:

1. Self-screen for the presence of COVID-19 symptoms (fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater, cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, vomiting, etc.) for two weeks prior during participation.
2. Note, if two weeks before participation, the family has traveled nationally or internationally outside the region. Consider, especially, if a participant has traveled to an area with a known current outbreak of COVID-19.
3. Determine and note if participants have been in close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with, tested for, and awaiting a result, or quarantined as a result of COVID-19.

If any participants or others within a household have displayed the above symptoms or have possibly been exposed to COVID-19 in the two weeks preceding or during participation, the CBIC will ask the participants to remain home for two weeks after the symptoms have subsided or until after a negative COVID-19 test result.

In addition to pre-arrival self-screening, the CBIC will ask participants to follow current social distancing and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for group gatherings and wearing face coverings in public places for the two weeks before the start of and during participation.

Arrival Screenings and Agreements

Participants involved in Freestyle Fridays, Ski & Snowboard Lessons, and other special events at Chester will be screened upon arrival to Chester Bowl in accordance with the [CBIC COVID-19 Winter Program Screening Plan](#) and participants will complete the [CBIC COVID-19](#)

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[Participation Agreement](#) which will be included in the registration material. This policy will be completed once per family before the start of participation.

In addition to the processes outlined above, staff and volunteers will adhere to the [CBIC COVID-19 Volunteer & Employee Agreement](#). The following key points are contained in the agreement:

1. Maintain social distancing of at least 6ft when possible, to not hug or shake hands with others, and not to share food or drink with others.
2. Wash hands before and after their shifts and activities.
3. Bring and wear a mask or face covering when indoors or when outdoors and social distancing is not achievable.
4. Sanitize commonly shared objects and frequently touched items.
5. Do not come to work or volunteer shift if experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19 or known exposure to individuals confirmed to have COVID-19.
6. Notify CBIC Programs & Operations Manager or Executive Director immediately if disqualified from working or volunteering.

This agreement will be conducted using paper sheets at the beginning of each shift. Participants, staff, and volunteers that do not agree to the terms in the agreement will not be allowed to participate in programming.

CBIC staff, participants, and volunteers are encouraged to communicate with CBIC Programs & Operations Manager (Sam Luoma) regarding scheduling, health screening, and questions regarding COVID-19 related requirements. Sam Luoma's email address and work phone number have been made readily available to all participants.

Participants with Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

Chester Bowl asks participants with pre-existing medical conditions to consult primary care providers for a professional medical judgment regarding if it is safe to participate. Those at high risk include people of all ages with underlying medical conditions, particularly if not well controlled, including:

1. People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma
2. People who have serious heart conditions
3. People who are immunocompromised. Note that many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ

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transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications

4. People with severe obesity, body mass index (BMI) of 40 or higher
5. People with diabetes
6. People with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis
7. People with liver disease

Identification and Isolation of Sick Persons

If staff, volunteers, or participants begin to feel ill or exhibit symptoms associated with COVID-19 while working or participating in programming they will be quarantined until they can go home.

If possible, ill persons will be quarantined outside. If the weather is not acceptable to quarantine outside, ill staff or participants will be quarantined in the CBIC Ski & Snowboard Garage C or the “Snow Machine Garage”. In the event of a medical emergency, CBIC staff will follow the [CBIC Emergency Action Plan](#) and call 911 to notify EMS. Anyone from the same household as the ill person will also be asked to quarantine and leave as soon as possible.

Employee Policies

The Chester Bowl Improvement Club has implemented leave policies that promote workers staying at home when they are sick, when household members are sick, or when required by a health care provider to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household.

Full-time CBIC employees have benefits outlined in the [CBIC Staff Benefits Policy](#) and have been allowed to work from home in the event they begin to experience symptoms associated with COVID-19. Accommodations for workers with underlying medical conditions or who have household members with underlying health conditions have been implemented.

Accommodations such as Zoom meetings and working remotely to fulfill essential job duties have been implemented when possible and are summarized in the [CBIC Employee COVID-19 Policy](#).

The Chester Bowl Improvement Club has also implemented a policy for informing workers if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 at their workplace and requiring them to quarantine for the required amount of time. This is summarized in the [CBIC Employee COVID-19 Policy](#)

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In addition, a policy has been implemented to protect the privacy of workers' health status and health information. [See CBIC Employee COVID-19 Policy](#)

The CBIC will have a pool of trained replacement staff available to replace staff should they become ill.

Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Basic infection prevention measures are being implemented at Chester Bowl. Signs and training designed to explain respiratory etiquette will be placed in camper areas. Staff are expected to wash hands before eating, after using the restroom, upon arrival to each shift, and frequently during each shift. Opportunities for handwashing are provided inside the Thom Storm Chalet and hand sanitizer will be readily available for staff, participants, and volunteers.

Staff, volunteers, and participants are required to follow the measures implemented in the [CBIC Mask & Face Covering Plan](#). The CBIC will provide a mask to each staff for free at the start of the season. After receiving a free mask, if staff arrive to work without a face covering they will be provided with a mask from the CBIC. The CBIC will provide face coverings for sale during programming.

Prevention Measures for Specific Programming

All programs will follow the procedures listed elsewhere in this plan. The following section lists procedures unique to each specific sub-program occurring during the winter ski and snowboard season.

General Operations

1. In accordance with [Executive Order 20-74](#) governing outdoor recreation and the [Stay Safe MN Guide to Outdoor Recreation](#), there is not an enforceable limit on the number of participants using an alpine ski & snowboard facility.
 - a. In accordance with the guidelines listed above, Chester Bowl will not limit, track, or prevent outdoor participation based on any group size requirement.
 - i. This applies to Chester Bowl season pass holders, day pass purchases, and season pass holders of our partner organizations taking advantage of partnership benefits.
 - ii. Ski & snowboard lesson participants, Freestyle Fridays, and other instruction based aspects of CBIC programming will adhere to group size limitations of 25 individuals or less.

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- iii. EO 20-74, paragraph 8, lists Ski Areas as an outdoor recreational activity and grants the MN DNR purview using the DNR Outdoor Recreation Guidelines. And there are no capacity caps specially listed for general outdoor facility. Any activities taking place indoors are subject to capacity restrictions based on MN Stay Safe Guidance, as well as caps on number of participants in lessons, events and competitions.
 1. The following Guidance are referenced:
 - a. MN DNR Outdoor Recreation Guide
 - b. MN Stay Safe - Guidance for Organized Sports
 - c. MN Stay Safe - Guidance for Bars & Restaurants
 - b. Chester Bowl will:
 - i. Put in place protections to ensure that social distancing is possible when outside participating in programming.
 - ii. Limit chalet use following current stay safe guidelines.
 - iii. Adapt programming to meet guidelines.
2. The lift line will be configured in a way that those waiting in line to get on the chairlift will have space and visual reminders such as signage to maintain six-foot separation between parties. Markings will be established to show what six feet look like. Lift operators will monitor the line and issue reminders as needed.
3. Those riding the chairlift will not be forced to ride with another rider. The Chester Bowl chairlift seats 2 maximum/ each chair. Riders will be encouraged to ride the chairlift as an individual, with members of their family or household, or with individuals that they have arrived at Chester Bowl with.
4. The main chalet space upstairs will not be used by visitors in the usual way as a concession stand and warming area. The COVID-19 capacity (25% of fire capacity) of the upstairs space is 11 people when configured with tables and 24 when configured as chairs only. Group sizes will be limited to 10 or less for staff using the upstairs chalet space to warm up during shifts. This space will no longer be used as the location to sell season and day passes, and for staff and volunteers to have a space to warm up between assignments and while on break. Staff and/or volunteers will regulate the capacity of the room. Concessions will not be sold here and there will be no general warming space for visitors; this will be shared in our program communication so that visitors are not expecting a place to warm up to be available.

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5. Bathrooms will be available to users and cleaned regularly according to our hygiene plan. Capacity will be limited to two users at a time and marked with signs on the doors. If two people are already in the bathroom, visitors will be asked to wait outside until one person leaves.

Equipment Lottery

The 2020/2021 Equipment Lottery will be conducted digitally to prevent the exposure to possible COVID-19 exposure. There will be no in-person event.

Ski & Snowboard Fittings

The CBIC will follow the [CBIC Equipment Fittings Pandemic Plan](#) to manage ski & snowboard fittings to be held October-November 2020.

Park Cleanup

The CBIC will follow the following plan to manage the 2020 Chester Bowl Hill Cleanup. This cleanup is both a litter cleanup and a grass/brush/tree cleanup to prepare the ski hill for the winter season.

1. To control for group size restrictions, the CBIC will require that all participants sign up for the hill cleanup using Signup Genius or another online platform. The group size will be limited to five groups (pods) of 25 or less (including staff) stationed at different parts of Chester Bowl. These pods will not mix or interact at a distance closer than 12 feet.
 - a. Group 1 will meet at the service road entrance on Kenwood Avenue and will be responsible for cleaning the top portion of the hill.
 - b. Group 2 will meet at the stage located near the Chester Bowl playground. This group will be led by Duluth Invaders and will be responsible for buckthorn removal near the top of the ski hill.
 - c. Group 3 will meet at the Thom Storm Chalet. This group will be responsible for work located primarily around the chalet and base of the ski hill.
 - d. Group 4 will meet at the garage located near the soccer field. This group will be responsible for moving picnic tables and excess garbage cans from the park for winter storage as well as doing litter pickup in the park.
 - e. Group 5 will meet at Lower Chester (intersection of 15th Ave E and 5th St) and will be responsible for cleaning garbage from around the Lower Part of the Chester Bowl Park. This group will also move skatepark features for winter storage in coordination with Congdon Hockey.

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2. All participants will be required to wear PPE anytime they are inside (restrooms) and outside when social distancing is not able to be achieved
3. Participants from the same household will be required to volunteer in the same group.
4. Participants are asked to bring their own work gloves and not to share those gloves with others.
5. Participants will be encouraged to not attend the cleanup if not feeling well.
6. Participants and staff will be screened in accordance with the [CBIC COVID-19 Winter Program Participant Screening Plan](#)
7. Families will be encouraged to volunteer together in the same group.
8. Screening logs and signup sheets will be kept for a minimum of 6 weeks following the cleanup to allow for contact tracing.
9. The entire event is outside, minimizing transmission risk
10. For this year's cleanup Chester Bowl is restricting the age limit of volunteers to ages 12 and up.

Snowmaking

The CBIC will take the following steps to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 during snowmaking operations.

1. Volunteers will sign up for approximately 4-hour shifts to volunteer.
2. Volunteers will be working independently and alone for the majority of their shift but during times with more than one volunteer:
 - a. Volunteers will be required to wear PPE
 - b. To meet outside as much as possible and during transition times where one volunteer is arriving, receiving an orientation, and one volunteer is leaving, volunteers will meet upstairs in the Chalet or the "ski garage" (Chester Bowl Garage A) where social distancing is achievable.
 - c. Volunteers will sanitize their work areas and commonly touched areas before leaving.
 - d. Volunteers will complete a screening log before the start of their volunteer shift.
 - e. Volunteers will be asked to stay home if experiencing symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Concessions

Concessions will be sold outdoors from a wooden booth or a similar structure. Volunteers and people in line must follow all relevant safety requirements in this plan, including leaving six feet between people from different households that are waiting in line. One volunteer will be in the

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booth at a time to minimize transmission risk. Concessions must be consumed outside, as there will be no warming space.

Lessons

Lessons will be held in pods of 25 or less, including instructors, participants, and parents (for beginner lessons where they assist). Advance online signup is required to manage group size. If multiple lessons are occurring simultaneously on different parts of the hill, the lesson groups will not intermingle. A key part of lessons is teaching new skiers and snowboarders how to safely use the lift. During this process, instructors or youth volunteers will ride the chairlift with the individuals in the lesson. While doing so both individuals will be masked, wearing gloves, and will avoid touching each other as much as possible.

Freestyle Fridays

Freestyle Friday events will be held in pods of 25 or less, including instructors and participants. Advance signup is required to manage group size. There will likely be multiple sessions back to back. Freestyle Friday groups will not intermingle.

Alpine Race Series

The Alpine Race Series typically hosts 100 or more racers, plus their parents and volunteers. Because it is impractical to break races down into multiple pods of 25 without intermingling, the Race Series will be canceled for this winter.

Winter Carnival

Because it is impractical to scale down this large special event to meet regulations, Chester Bowl has canceled its annual Winter Carnival, held in late February.

Ski & Snowboard Returns

The CBIC will follow the [CBIC Equipment Return Pandemic Plan](#) to manage returns. This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan includes and describes how the Chester Bowl Improvement Club will implement the following measures during the 2020 Ski & Snowboard Equipment Returns to be held in Spring 2021 after the conclusion of the season.

Chester Bowl Cadet Program

The CBIC utilizes youth volunteers who are in at least grade 7 and up to age 16 to help with lessons and to assist during other programming. Signup will be conducted online, orientation will be conducted outside or online. A key part of a Cadet's responsibilities is teaching new skiers

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and snowboarders how to safely use the lift. During this process, Cadets will ride the chairlift with the individuals who need instruction. While doing so both individuals will be masked, wearing gloves, and will avoid touching each other as much as possible.