

For COVID-19 Information:

(831) 755-4521 / (831) 769-8700 / covid-19@co.monterey.ca.us / www.mtyhd.org/covid19

Monterey County Health Department

Charter Boat Guidance

Developed: June 12th, 2020

Charter Boat operators may begin operating effective June 12, 2020, subject to the requirements set forth in the Monterey County Health Officer Orders, and subject to any additional requirements set forth in guidance by the County Health Officer, the Governor of California, and State Health Officer.

Charter boats have low contact intensity and a moderate number of contacts where interaction between the crew and captain and passengers occur in the outdoors. Businesses that involve outdoor interactions carry a lower risk of transmission than most indoor businesses. Also, charter boats should result in a limited increase in the number of people reentering the workforce and the overall volume of commercial activity and mitigation measures can meaningfully decrease the resulting public health risk.

To mitigate the risk of transmission to the greatest extent possible, before resuming operations, each operator must:

- a. Prepare, post, implement, and distribute to their employees a Social Distancing Protocol as specified in Section 6 of the Shelter in Place Order dated May 26, 2020 () for each of their facilities in the County frequented by employees, contractors, vendors, or members of the public.
- b. Comply with State issued Guidance for Outdoor Activities (<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-campgrounds.pdf>):
 - ii. Perform a detailed risk assessment and create a site-specific protection plan;
 - iii. Train employees on how to limit the spread of COVID-19. This includes how to [screen themselves for symptoms](#) and when to stay home.;
 - iv. Set up individual control measures and screenings;
 - v. Put cleaning and disinfecting protocols in place; and
 - vi. Establish physical distancing guidelines.
- c. Charter boats may operate and take out passengers, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. The number of people aboard the boat must be limited such that at least six feet of spacing can be maintained at all times;
 - ii. Display a set of clearly visible rules and changes for passengers that are to be a condition of entry. The rules could include instructions to use hand sanitizer, wear face coverings during the trip, maintain physical distance from employees and other guests/groups and avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces. Whenever possible, the rules should be available digitally

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- and include pictograms. Clearly display phone contact information for the Monterey County Health Department;
- iii. Fishing rod holders must be spaced at least 6 feet apart from each other;
 - iv. Boats must prohibit shared handling of equipment or other items, for example bait and tackle or binoculars;
 - v. Before boarding, passengers must wait on the dock at least six feet apart;
 - vi. Passengers must not shake hands, share food or drinks, or engage in any physical contact with each other;
 - vii. The boat and equipment must be washed after each trip;
 - viii. Bathrooms (if any) must be cleaned and sanitized after each use and contain hand sanitizer or soap and water at all times;
 - ix. Hand sanitizer must be made available throughout the boat;
 - x. Passengers must not board the boat until the captain or crew allow boarding;
 - xi. Boats must offer contactless means of payment, registration, and signature of waivers;
 - xii. Passengers are permitted to bring hand-held lunch coolers only. No large coolers are allowed on the boat;
 - xiii. Guests and visitors should be screened for symptoms upon arrival, asked to use hand sanitizer, and to wear a face covering
 - xiv. The crew, captain and passengers are required to wear face coverings at all times (except when eating or drinking);
 - xv. Rails, counters and seating areas shall be cleaned as frequently as needed to maintain sanitary conditions; and
 - xvi. Passengers shall disembark one at a time as instructed by the crew or captain.

Passengers of a single household or living unit are not subject to maintain social/physical distancing with each other. For clarity purposes, passengers of a single household or living unit are not required to maintain a six-foot distance from each other, can have rod holders closer to each other than six feet, and can share equipment, food or drink with each other.

Additional requirements must be considered for vulnerable populations. Campgrounds, RV parks, and outdoor recreation operators must comply with all CAL/OSHA (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/>) standards and be prepared to adhere to its guidance as well as guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cid/dcdc/pages/guidance.aspx>). Additionally, employers must be prepared to alter their operations as those guidelines change.