COVID-19 Transitioning – Obligatory Conditions and Guidelines for Camping and Camping sites

These following obligatory conditions are issued under the Public Health Act Chapter 465 of the Laws of Malta and require strict adherence. Failure to adhere to these conditions will result in enforcement procedures as provided by the Act.

This document aims at setting the obligatory conditions and provide guidelines for the following activities:

1. The use of individual camper vehicles
2. Camping using tent-like structures only
3. The organisation of camper vehicles and/or tent-like structures in a camping site or camping village
4. Camping using a mix of camper vehicles and/or tent-like structures and other structures such as for communal dining, leisure/sports activities and sanitary purposes.

Mandatory conditions to be observed

The Superintendent of Public Health hereby orders that the following measures are implemented:

(a) Tents are pitched at a minimum distance of 2 metres from each other in all directions
(b) The number of people that can sleep in a camper vehicle or within a tent shall be limited by its indoor floor area. Four square metres (4m²) should be allotted per person unless the tent or camper vehicle is used by persons from the same household
(c) Different households should occupy different camper vehicles or tents. When this is not possible, the group of persons sleeping in a camper vehicle or a tent should strive to maintain their group formation during all day activities including mealtimes
(d) Group formations should limit the time spent with other groups occupying the other camper vehicles or tents as much as possible
(e) When the occupiers of different camper vehicles or tents meet for any community events, the appropriate social distancing principles need to be applied as much as possible
Camping sites can sometimes provide fixed structures for different activities. An overall principle is to minimise the use of communal places and spaces as much as possible. Different obligatory measures apply according to the main purpose of these structures. For examples:

- Dining: the measures applied for indoor or outdoor restaurants would apply as applicable. Preference should be given for outdoor dining as much as possible.
- Leisure/sports activities: the measures applied for indoor or outdoor leisure and sports activities would apply as applicable. Preference should be given for leisure and sports activities that are conducted outdoors as much as possible.
- Sanitary facilities: each camper or tent group should be assigned a set of sanitary facilities (e.g. shower, toilet, wash basin) for their sole use. If this is not possible, a timetable can be designed to earmark time-slots for the use of a group. The sanitary facilities need to be disinfected after every use.

Lockers can be made available as long as they are clearly labelled and disinfected after each use.

Provide ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas. Provide adequate soap and water supplies to permit regular cleaning after each use of the sanitary facilities.

Provide an adequate supply of an appropriate 70% alcohol hand-rub at the entrance and inside all the communal areas. Persons to sanitise their hands prior to entrance.

**Principles for business continuity**

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic is a public health emergency and that business continuity in respect of COVID-19 should be founded on expert public health advice and on social dialogue, the following principles shall apply:

- All employees, regardless of their occupation or how they are engaged, have the right to a healthy and safe working environment.
- The COVID-19 pandemic requires a focused approach to work health and safety as it applies to camping sites.
- To keep camping sites healthy and safe, employers/organisers must, in consultation with employees and their representatives, assess the way they work to identify, understand and quantify risks and implement and review control measures that address those risks.
- As COVID-19 restrictions are gradually relaxed, employers/organisers and employees must work together to adapt and promote safe work practices consistent with advice from public health authorities and to ensure that camping sites are ready for the social distancing and exemplary hygiene measures that are critical to the success of the transition.
- Employers/organisers and employees must actively control against the transmission of COVID-19 while at work, consistent with the updated advice from the public health authorities.
Employers/organisers and employees must prepare for the possibility that there will be cases of COVID-19 in the workplace and be ready to respond immediately, appropriately, effectively and efficiently, and consistent with specific recommendations from public health authorities.

How COVID-19 spreads
COVID-19 presents with coughing or sneezing which release droplets of infected fluid. Most of these droplets can fall on nearby surfaces and objects - such as counters, display items, desks, tables, or telephones. Other frequently touches surfaces such as door handles, intercoms, lift buttons are other surfaces which are frequently touched by customers and employees and can become contaminated. People can catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects – and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Standing within two metres of a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period, one can catch the disease by breathing in droplets coughed out or exhaled by them. In other words, COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu. Most persons infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and recover. However, some go on to experience more serious illness and may require hospital care. Risk of serious illness rises with age. People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.

Duties of the employers/organisers and employees
Employers/organisers have the duty to consult with employees on health and safety matters relating to COVID-19. Employers/organisers must give employees the opportunity to express their views and raise their concerns. Employees are most likely to know about the risks of their work. Involving them will help build commitment to any changes that employers need to implement. Employers/organisers must advise employees of the outcome of consultation.

Adapting camping sites to manage and mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 requires a thorough risk assessment.
These guidelines provide considerations that employers/organisers must make when deciding on control measures such as restrictions within these facilities to allow for social distancing, the adequacy of facilities for proper personal hygiene, cleaning arrangements and other changes that may affect the health and safety of employees. Consultation does not require consensus or agreement, but employers/organisers are strongly advised to allow employees to be part of the decision-making process for COVID-19 related matters.
Guidelines for the application of COVID-19 mitigation measures for Camping and in Camping sites

Safety and sanitation in the camping business are essential for health, from preventing infection and improving employees and guest’s overall well-being.

The guidelines developed in this document were created to provide comprehensive advice on camping and camping sites operation during the Pandemic of COVID-19. The guidelines are meant to implement the principles of basic hygiene and social distancing within each area of the camping site to support the business during these unprecedented times.

Camping and camping sites shall fall under the specific mandatory conditions for mitigation measures for the Covid-19 transition phase issued under the Public Health Act chapter 465 which are available on www.covid19health.gov.mt

These guidelines are not intended to replace existing Laws, licensing requirements or regulations.

General Precautions to be taken
✓ Minimise use of communal spaces
✓ A face mask should be worn by all employees at all times when in contact with other customers
✓ Customers must respect the facility’s cleaning and hygiene standards
✓ Linen and towels should be brought by the individual clients and taken back to be washed at home. There should not be linen and towels for rent.
✓ All facilities should maintain a guest or visitor log to facilitate any need for contact tracing. In particular records shall be kept of the campers or tents where the different groups of clients have stayed and when. Where possible, maintain visitor contact information (name and phone number of at least one person per party) for up to 28 days in order to assist public health officials in the event necessary. If an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 has been present at the facility, facilities should work with local health authorities regarding continued operations
✓ Each camper or tent-like structure to be disinfected thoroughly after the previous occupants depart and before the next group arrives

Promoting good hand and respiratory hygiene
Employers/organisers must direct employees and customers to practice good hygiene inside camping sites. Good hygiene requires regular washing of hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and drying them with a clean paper towel. Employees and customers must wash their hands before and after eating, after coughing or sneezing, after going to the toilet, when changing tasks and after touching potentially contaminated surfaces. When it is not possible to wash hands, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethanol or 70% alcohol as the active ingredient must be used as per the manufacturer’s instructions.
Good respiratory hygiene requires everyone at the camping site to, at all times:

- cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbow or a clean tissue (and no spitting)
- avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth
- dispose of used tissues and cigarette butts hygienically, e.g. in closed bins
- wash their hands before and after smoking a cigarette
- clean and disinfect shared equipment and machinery after use
- wash body, hair (including facial hair) and clothes thoroughly every day, and
- have no intentional physical contact, for example, shaking hands and patting backs.

To enhance good hygiene outcomes:

- train employees on the importance of washing their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and drying them correctly or use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser, before entering and exiting a common area
- place posters near hand washing facilities showing how to correctly wash and dry hands and clean hands with sanitizer,
- inform employees of hygiene standards expected when utilising common areas (cleaning up after use, placing rubbish in bins provided, avoiding putting items such as phones on work surfaces, etc.).
- keep communicating and promoting the message that people need to stay at home even if they have just mild symptoms and to return to work 24 hours only after they are symptom free.
- persons who develop a mild cough, fever (i.e. a temperature of 37.2°C or higher), shortness of breath, headaches, tiredness, loss of taste, loss of smell or diarrhoea, should call the public health helpline on 111 giving details of their symptoms.
- Provide more bins for people to dispose of any used tissues / items.
- Encourage the use of contactless payments, without disadvantaging older or vulnerable customers. Ask for the exact payment and provide employees with disposable gloves if they must collect money from customers. One pair of gloves per customer is to be used and used gloves are to be thrown away safely after use.
- Display posters with these messages throughout the camping site. Please contact the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Directorate on 2326600 or visit www.covid19health.gov.mt. Combine this with other channels commonly used for communication in your business.
Hygiene facilities
The Management must ensure there are adequate and accessible facilities to achieve good hygiene and that facilities are in good working order, clean and safe. The management must also consider whether there are an adequate number of hand washing stations, in convenient locations, to sustain the increase in good hygiene practices of employees and customers. Washroom facilities must be properly stocked and have adequate supplies of toilet paper, soap, water, and drying facilities (paper towels). Employers/organisers may also need to provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer in appropriate locations if there are limited hand washing facilities available.

When determining what facilities are needed, the management must consider the number of employees on site, the shift arrangements and when access to these facilities is required. If employers/organisers have temporarily down-sized worker numbers in response to COVID-19 and these will now be increased, employers/organisers must take this into account to determine the facilities needed before employees return to work.

Water dispensers should not be used. Campsite users should be encouraged to bring their own water.

Rubbish bins must be cleared regularly and as often as necessary.

Employers/organisers should consider opening windows or adjusting air-conditioning for more ventilation in common areas. Avoid or reduce recirculated air-conditioning where
Social distancing
Social distancing refers to the requirement that people distance themselves from others. Public Health Authorities have determined that everyone must keep at least 2 metres from others and that in any given closed space, there must be 4 square metres of space per customer.

Put signs and markings outside the entrance of the camping site to identify 2 metres distance.

Employers/organisers should also review tasks and processes that usually require close interaction and identify ways to modify these to increase social distancing between employees themselves and between employees and customers (e.g. payment counters).

Deliveries, contractors, servicing technicians and visitors attending the Camping site
Minimise the number of employees attending to deliveries and contractors as much as possible. Delivery drivers and other contractors who need to provide maintenance or repair services or perform other essential activities, should be given clear instructions of requirements while they are on site.

Ensure hand washing facilities, or if not possible, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, is readily available for employees after socially handling deliveries. Direct visiting delivery drivers and contractors to remain in vehicles and use contactless methods such as mobile phones to communicate with employees wherever possible. Direct visiting delivery drivers and contractors to use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before handling products being delivered.

Use, and ask delivery drivers and contractors to use, electronic paperwork where possible, to minimise social interaction. Where possible, set up alternatives to requiring signatures. For instance, see whether a confirmation email or a photo of the loaded or unloaded goods can be accepted as proof of delivery or collection (as applicable). If a pen or other utensil is required for signature, ask that the pen or utensil is cleaned or sanitised before use or use your own.

Do I need to provide personal protective equipment to employees who are in close contact with each other or with customers for prolonged periods of time?
The management must ensure employees comply with social distancing requirements where possible. In circumstances where the nature of the task requires employees to be in close contact, put control measures in place that minimise the time employees spend with each other or with other people in the campsite. Employers/organisers must also ensure employees are practicing good hygiene.
If the Management has a situation where, despite other control measures, employees will be in close contact with each other or with other people for longer than the recommended time (i.e. more than 15 minutes face to face cumulative over one day or more than 2 hours in a shared closed space), consider the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Employees must be trained in the proper use of PPE. Be aware of risks that may arise as a result of employees using and wearing PPE. Personal protective equipment (PPE) can be used to supplement the other control measures put in place to protect against COVID-19 including good hygiene measures, social distancing, environmental cleaning and providing employees with information and training. The Management must implement more control measures to protect against COVID-19 than only PPE.

The type of PPE to be provided will depend on your camping site and the outcomes of risk assessment. Common PPE that can be used to protect against COVID-19 include masks, gloves, eye protection, and screens. The use of certain types of masks, gowns and disposable suits is restricted to healthcare settings. It is not recommended that these types of PPE are used outside of healthcare to protect against COVID-19.

**Do I need to provide masks to employees?**

The advice of the Public Health Authorities at this stage of the pandemic response is to wear a face mask or visor when entering closed spaces in order to enhance the effects of social distancing.

It is the responsibility of the Management to provide appropriate masks or visors to their employees. The Management must also provide appropriate training and instruction on how to put on and fit, wear, remove and dispose of masks and on how to put on, remove and sanitise visors. Information about using masks or visors is provided by the manufacturer. If a worker has been provided training and instruction about using a mask or visor, they must comply with that training and those instructions.

**Do I need to provide gloves?**

Gloves will not normally be necessary. A risk assessment must be conducted to help inform what gloves, if any, and when are appropriate and required. If the Management choose to supply or use gloves, they should make sure the gloves are suitable for the work; not all gloves are appropriate for all work or workplaces. Be aware that wearing gloves may result in new risks. For example, wearing disposable gloves could cause skin irritation, contact dermatitis or other sensitivities in some employees.
When providing gloves, employees must be trained in how to put on, use, remove and dispose of gloves (Fig. 2). The Management must provide the appropriate facilities to use gloves properly including a hand washing area and appropriate products and a sealed bin for disposal. Even if employees wear gloves on the camping site, the Management should ensure that employees have good hygiene practices including washing or sanitizing hands frequently.

For more information on proper use of gloves, visit [www.covid19health.gov.mt](http://www.covid19health.gov.mt)

**Cleaning and disinfecting measures**

A combination of cleaning and disinfection will be most effective in removing the COVID-19 virus. Communal areas and facilities in camping sites must be cleaned at least daily. Cleaning with detergent and water is sufficient. Once clean, surfaces can be disinfected.
When and how often the camping site facilities should be disinfected will depend on the likelihood of contaminated material being present. Alternatively, cleaners may be able to do a 2-in-1 clean and disinfection by using a combined detergent and disinfectant.

How to clean and disinfect

Cleaning means to physically remove germs (bacteria and viruses), dirt and grime from surfaces using a detergent and water solution. A detergent is designed to break up oil and grease with the use of water. Anything labelled as a detergent will work. Cleaning should start with the dirtiest surface first, progressively moving towards the cleanest surface. When surfaces are cleaned, they should be left as dry as possible to reduce the risk of slips and falls, as well as spreading of viruses and bacteria through droplets.

Disinfecting means using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. It is important to clean before disinfecting because dirt and grime can reduce the ability of disinfectants to kill germs. Disinfectants containing ≥ 70% alcohol, ammonium compounds, chlorine bleach or oxygen bleach are suitable for use on hard surfaces (surfaces where liquids pool, and do not soak in). The packaging or manufacturer’s instructions will outline the correct way to use disinfectant. Disinfectants require time to be effective at killing viruses. If no time is specified, the disinfectant should be left for ten minutes before removing.

Which areas should be cleaned and disinfected, and how often?

Workplaces should be cleaned and disinfected every day.
Any surfaces that are frequently touched should be prioritised for cleaning, e.g. door handles, counters, phones and POS machines, Perspex screens (if installed) and sanitary facilities (such as toilets). Any surfaces that are visibly dirty, or have a spill, should be cleaned as soon as they are identified, regardless of when they were last cleaned.

What should cleaners wear?

In most circumstances, it will not be necessary for cleaners to wear protective clothing. However, employees should use personal protective equipment (PPE) that is necessary for the products they are using. Gloves and a disposable apron are the minimum requirements. Medical masks should be used if cleaning an area impacted by a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case. Clothes that can be washed afterwards are suitable.