



# BOH Forms: #25 Beaches Checklist

Board of Health and Local Health Department Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

This **Checklist** highlights many of the permitting requirements for family campground and similar housing options.

The checklist is designed to be used in tandem with **105CMR 445:00**. **Remember: BOH always has the final say on requirements.**

## State Sanitary Code, Chapter VII– 105 CMR 445:00 Minimum Standards for Bathing Beaches

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/105-cmr-445-state-sanitary-code-chapter-vii-minimum-standards-for-bathing-beaches/download>

- Regulations include, public and semi-public.
- Do not include swimming pools, private beaches or State and Federal beaches are regulated and inspected by the State/Feds.

## Beach Definitions

- **Beach:** Land next to salt or fresh water that provides access to bathing water.
- **Public Bathing Beach:** open to the public; free or for a fee.
- **Semi-Public Bathing Beach:** access only to members, patrons, associations, guests whether free or for a fee.
- **Private Bathing Beach:** any beach that is not a public or semi-public beach. Usually a beach owned by one family unit.
- **Sanitary Survey:** written report by a CHO, RS, Registered Sanitary Engineer assessing potential or actual hazards/contamination.
- **Operator:** Person or group with legal title to the beach or the right to operate the beach.

## BOH Licensed Beaches

**Note:** BOH routinely permit/inspect and charges a fee for a permit plus additional fees for inspections and re-inspections (including for COVID-19 complaints), testing and other BOH Regulated Services such as food, pools, spas, dumpsters.

- Public and Semi-Public Operators** need an annual Beach Permit
- Permit Application:** 30 days before opening
- Permit Expiration:** Usually expires December 31 or May 26 each year but may be issued for two years.
- Renewal:** may continue to operate under an expired permit if application was made 30 days before expiration.
- Permanent Signage:** Operating Dates; Beach Operator; Phone #; Permit #; Note about bacteria testing/monitoring dates.
- Local Regulations:** BOH may pass local regulations stricter than the State Regulations at a properly convened BOH meeting.

## Testing

**Note:** test collections can be done by the BOH under contract with the Operator or by a third-party lab under contract to the Operator.

- E. Coli Testing Criteria to Close:** (Fresh water) >235/100ml or geometric mean of 5 recent samples >126/100ml.
- Test Site:** samples taken within 500 meters (1600 ft) in same body of water can be used for multiple beaches with BOH approval.
- Sample Collection:** middle bathing area; knee depth or more; bottle opening face down until 1 foot below surface; wear gloves.
- Chain of Custody:** label before sampling; keep good records; keep cold; deliver to lab asap.

## COVID-19 Control Plan Requirements Phase 1 – May 18, 2020 [outdoor.recreation@mass.gov](mailto:outdoor.recreation@mass.gov) [www.mass.gov/reopening](http://www.mass.gov/reopening)

**Note:** a written plan is required before opening. <https://www.mass.gov/doc/beaches-guidance-for-managers-5-18-20/download>

**Enforcement Assistance :** DLS hotline: (508) 616-0461 x9488 or by sending an email to [safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov](mailto:safepublicworkplacemailbox@mass.gov)

- Group Size:** maximum 10
- Social Distancing:** 6 feet between individuals; 12 ft. between groups/toweling/blankets
- Masks:** required when not swimming
- Parking:** managed to limit crowding based on beach capacity
- Drop-off:** social distancing maintained; no loitering or tailgating
- Picnic Areas:** closed if not able to sanitize between users or maintain social distancing.
- Beach Sports:** volleyball and other beach sports not allowed.
- Toilets:** lines should be marked to maintain social distancing; cleaning and disinfecting at least daily.
- Cleaning:** EEA COVID-19 Outdoor Recreational Facility Restroom Cleaning Best Practices followed
- Handwashing:** running water, pump soap, single use paper towels or hand sanitizer provided.
- Showers/Indoor Changing Rooms:** closed.
- Water Fountains:** closed.
- Composting Toilets:** closed and replaced by portable toilets
- Rentals:** disinfection between users; no mask or snorkel rentals
- Trash Disposal:** initiate carry in and carry out protocols or use no touch trash containers.
- Shuttles:** services closed.
- Payments:** Contactless payments if possible.
- Entry fees/controls** encouraged.
- Lifeguards** practice social distancing, except in emergencies.
- Signage:** Mandated signage to remind all of the COVID-19 Control Plan
- Food Service** follows food establishment requirements
- Employee Protections:**
  - Handwashing, masks, social distancing, sanitizer, wipes, no shared equipment without disinfecting
  - Training, signage, PPE (masks, gloves, solid face guards, hats, etc.)
  - Health Policy: illness screening and stay-at-home policy when ill.