

## Criteria for Consideration in the Opening of New Jersey Campgrounds for Transient Campers

In New Jersey there are approximately 96 privately owned traditional campgrounds hosting approximately 24,000 campsites. Campgrounds are located in 12 of New Jersey's counties.

All campgrounds provide outdoor lodging whether it is in a physical unit or a campsite. Campgrounds provide lodging and while people are at a campground, they may recreate but the primary purpose of a campground is to be able to provide outdoor lodging. Any other activities in a campground are considered amenities.

Privately owned campgrounds and RV Parks, in fact are a critical piece of New Jersey's lodging infrastructure. The privately owned campgrounds provide temporary housing and shelter and, in many cases, other essential supplies for workers and residents with propane gas from their filling stations. This gas is essential for people who must cook their meals, heat their water and RV's with. The RV is the personal property of the person that needs to be staying in it.

The RV park also provides hookups that the RV connects to such as Potable Water, Sewage Systems, Electricity, and Wi-Fi for the guests to be able to keep informed and connected.

There are different categories of campgrounds and camping in New Jersey

1. Public campgrounds – those in state and county parks
2. Condo campgrounds – people who own the unit and the land which the unit sits on and they pay property taxes on
3. Private/Residential Campgrounds –
  - a. these are campgrounds that have people who have camping units which they own and are totally self-contained meaning they have their own bathrooms, showers, and kitchen facilities in them and are similar to a second home. Seasonal campers are under contract with a campground owner to house their camping unit in the campground for a specific length of time.
  - b. These campgrounds also welcome transient campers. Transient campers can be anyone who reserves a site for a specific amount of time (overnight, weekly, or longer). Campgrounds are able to accommodate transient campers who travel to the campground in their own self-contained unit (Class A and Class C motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth wheels etc.).
  - c. Campgrounds also have rental units on their properties – some call them glamping units – (teepees, treehouses, covered wagons, cabins, and other outdoor lodging units) which are available for rent on a daily, weekly, or longer basis. Many of these are also self-contained meaning they have the above amenities.
  - d. Most campgrounds also have primitive rental camping units available. These would have none of the above amenities (bathrooms, etc.) and would require the guest to use a bathhouse.
  - e. Tenters – those who arrive at a campground to rent a site to pitch their tent and would require all amenities of a campground.

## **Campground Stores**

Most campgrounds have stores that sell essential items such as bread, milk, eggs and propane for cooking along with essential paper goods such as toilet paper and paper towels and should be allowed to service their campers with restrictions recommended.

## **Campground Preventative Measures**

1. Seasonal campers have their own units which are self-contained. They have their own kitchen, bathroom, water and electricity. Campers can be confined to their camper homes under the same set of rules that homeowners are currently confined to for residential homes.
2. Campground staff will monitor groups to prohibit gatherings.
3. Campground owners will enforce the social distancing mandate and the wearing of a mask until orders are lifted.
4. With the Health Department's ongoing permission, campgrounds can close public restrooms. Restroom buildings are required by code, but this code should be temporarily suspended by the state and local health departments.
5. Campground operators will keep closed any recreation facilities to include fitness centers, pavilions, recreation centers, playgrounds, bathing/swimming lakes, swimming pools, indoor sports facilities, and arcades as an effort to prevent further spread of COVID-19.
6. Check-ins to the campgrounds can be done via online and telephone limiting the contact with others.
7. Campground staff will be encouraged to stay home if showing symptoms of illness.
8. Campfires are allowed at individual campsites, subject to the social distancing restrictions.
9. Campground owners can monitor who can access their campgrounds and can enforce no outside visitors – only the campers who have contracts may be allowed in.
10. Campgrounds have cleaning and sanitizing protocols in place to protect their campers and their staff.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

1. Campgrounds have side open spaces and can provide people with places to get out and enjoy some fresh air, or exercise, or bike, or walk, or fish while maintaining social distancing.
2. Opening campgrounds to transient campers and helping them get outdoors may help ease the mental stress that many are feeling from the Covid-19 restrictions.
3. **We are requesting that campgrounds be allowed to open on May 20, 2020 to transient camping at this time. (see below for definition of camping) We hope to phase in this type of camping for those coming into a campground in their own self-contained unit (those not needing public restrooms or bathhouses), followed by the opening of cabins and other outdoor lodging facilities.**
4. Campgrounds are not like hotels – folks do not need to go thru a lobby or a front desk or get on an elevator or walk down a hallway. They do not need housekeeping service or maintenance services.
5. Although campgrounds are allowed to open subject to the above restrictions (subject to any new COVID-19 restrictions implemented by way of EO or AO), they are not required to, nor should it be implied that any campground must open if the owners/management choose not to.
6. Hotels and motels throughout the state are open.