



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHONE: (831) 646-3866

CONTACT: Karen Larson, Parks & Recreation Director

E-MAIL: larson@monterey.org

CITY OF MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD PLAYGROUNDS REOPEN Sports to Reopen Mid-March with Some Restrictions

Monterey, CA. – Today the City Manager signed a [new emergency order](#) reopening many City of Monterey Playgrounds and ordering fields to reopen soon. In summary, this Order:

- Reopens all playgrounds today, except Dennis the Menace Playground, which is a regional destination and is not "designed primarily to serve nearby residents within a half a mile" as defined by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- Opens ballfields by permit only on Monday, March 8 and opens soccer fields, beach volleyball courts, and artificial turf volleyball courts by permit only on Monday, March 15, for users who adhere to the CDPH guidance and have received a permit from the Parks and Recreation Director. The permit process helps ensure safety and strict adherence to the State of California Department of Public Health guidelines for Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Sports. In the widespread tier (purple) counties such as Monterey County, CDPH limits outdoor moderate-contact sports such as soccer, volleyball, and beach volleyball to groups that meet certain requirements, including informed consent. Therefore, use permits are required for all athletic fields and court use at this time.
- Keeps all other parks, including Veteran's Memorial Park Campground, open to the public.
- Keeps picnic tables and group barbeque areas closed per CDPH guidelines regarding group gatherings.
- Keeps basketball courts closed until a system in place to ensure CDPH guidelines are met.

(more)

Parks and Recreation Director Karen Larson said, "We are thrilled to welcome children back to the playgrounds! We recommend playing it safe and following all of the posted guidance such as social distancing, wearing a face covering, and washing/sanitizing your hands before and after using the playground."

Background

On Tuesday, March 2, 2021, the State of California released new data on the COVID-19 case rates for Monterey County. The case rate dropped to 10.1 per 100,000 from 18.4, which allows additional recreational activities including certain sports to occur in the more restrictive tiers. As a result of the downward trend, the City of Monterey opened neighborhood playgrounds, today, March 5, 2021.

The emergency order is posted at

https://monterey.org/Portals/0/News/Covid19/2021/21_0305-Emergency-Order-Reopening-Field-s-and-Playgrounds.pdf

Play It Safe

Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 in our community, please follow these simple steps to help keep our outdoor playgrounds safe, open, and fun.

- WASH HANDS**
Wash or sanitize your hands before and after you visit.
- WEAR A MASK**
Everyone 2 years and older should wear a mask.
- MAINTAIN DISTANCE**
Keep six feet of space between you and your friends.
- PLAN AHEAD**
Visit the park at different times or days to avoid crowds and waits.
- KNOW WHEN TO STAY HOME**
Elderly individuals and people with underlying medical conditions should avoid playgrounds when others are present.
- SHARE OUR SPACE**
To avoid crowding and allow everyone to use this space, please limit your visit to 30 minutes when others are waiting.

Jugar de Manera Seguro

Debido a la propagación constante de COVID-19 en nuestra comunidad, siga estos sencillos pasos para ayudar a mantener nuestros patios de recreo al aire libre seguros, abiertos y divertidos.

- LAVARSE LAS MANOS**
Lávase o desinfecte sus manos antes y después de su visita.
- USAR UNA MÁSCARA**
Todos a partir de 2 años deben usar una máscara.
- MANTENGA SU DISTANCIA**
Manténgase a seis pies de distancia entre usted y sus amigos.
- PLANIFICA CON ANTICIPACIÓN**
Visite el parque en diferentes horarios o días para evitar multitudes y esperas.
- SEPA CUÁNDO SE DEBE ESTAR EN CASA**
Personas mayores y personas con condiciones médicas deben evitar patios de recreo cuando otros están presentes.
- COMPARTE NUESTRO ESPACIO**
Para evitar las multitudes y permitir que todos usen este espacio, limite su visita a 30 minutos cuando otros están esperando.

Visite monterey.org/coronavirus for more information or call Monterey Parks at 831.644.3860

<https://monterey.org/Portals/0/News/Covid19/2021/Play-it-Safe-Signs.pdf>

Please also refer to the CDC guidance available at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>

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