



National Park Service

About Us

NPS Public Health Update

The National Park Service works with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state, tribal, and local public health authorities and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure the safety of park visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners. When we are responding to an ongoing public health incident, this page will provide timely updates about our response activities and links to specific information about parks that may be involved. Additional information is available from the NPS Office of Public Health in its [A-Z Health Topics Index](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/healthtopicsindex.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/healthtopicsindex.htm>).

COVID-19

The NPS is following DOI's COVID-19 Workforce Safety Plan (Version 7.0) released in June 2023 and available to the public on [DOI.gov](https://doi.gov/coronavirus) (<https://doi.gov/coronavirus>). The NPS Office of Public Health maintains a [public health information page for COVID-19](https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/covid-19.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/covid-19.htm>) as part of its [A-Z Health Topics Index](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/healthtopicsindex.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/healthandsafety/healthtopicsindex.htm>). Please check with [individual parks](https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm) (<https://www.nps.gov/findapark/index.htm>) for specific details about park operations.

News Releases

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DENALI NATIONAL PARK & PRESERVE

Denali to Require Masks as of July 8, 2022

(<https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/news/masks-required-july-8-2022.htm>)

Locations: Denali National Park & Preserve

Date Released: 2022-07-07

Beginning Friday, July 8, Denali National Park and Preserve will require all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks while inside any federal building within the park or while riding a park bus, except in the Walter Harper Ranger Station in Talkeetna.

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

National Park Service updates mask requirements following new CDC guidance

(<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/covid-mask-update-mar-2022-htm.htm>)

Offices: Office of Communications

Date Released: 2022-03-04

The National Park Service has updated its masking guidance to align with the CDC's new COVID-19 Community Level tool, which helps communities decide what prevention steps to take. Effective immediately, masking requirements will vary by park based on local conditions, however masks are still required on all forms of enclosed public transportation. Updates will be posted on individual park websites to help visitors plan their visit and on signs in parks.

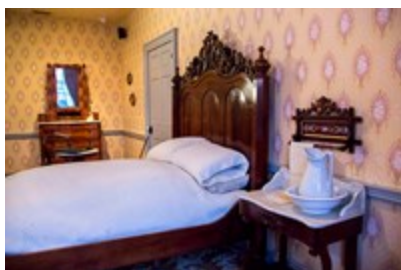
GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

The David Wills house to reopen for special days in November

(<https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/news/wills-house-november-2021.htm>)

Locations: Gettysburg National Military Park

Date Released: 2021-10-27



(<https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/news/wills-house-november-2021.htm>)

The home where Abraham Lincoln completed the Gettysburg Address will soon reopen to the public. The historic David Wills house will be open, free of charge, on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, from 1 pm to 5 pm, from Thursday, November 4 through Saturday, November 20.

COMMERCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM

National Park Service Implementation of EO 14042 and the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force COVID-19 Guidance for Commercial Service Providers

(<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/csp/news/eo14042.htm>)

Offices: Commercial Services Program

Date Released: 2021-10-21

Concessioners, commercial use authorization holders and leaseholders are encouraged to obtain information on workplace safety and associated requirements.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

COVID-19 Pandemic Causes Impacts and Opportunities for U.S. National Parks

(<https://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/news/pandemic-causes-impacts-and-opportunities-for-u-s-national-parks.htm>)

Locations: Acadia National Park

Date Released: 2021-04-12



(<https://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/news/pandemic-causes-impacts-and-opportunities-for-u-s-national-parks.htm>)

National Park Service staff studying effects of the Coronavirus pandemic found wide variations in park visitation, fewer park programs, gaps in long-term monitoring of natural and cultural resources, and lost park-related employment across the U.S. in 2020. Findings in the paper show that in the early stages of the pandemic in April 2020, visitation to U.S. national parks declined by about 87 percent. In some parks visitation rebounded quickly as the summer progressed, while in others it remained low. Other parks, particularly those near urban areas, experienced increased numbers of visitors as people sought safe areas for recreation and exercise.

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

San Antonio Missions to Expand Visitor Services

(<https://www.nps.gov/saan/learn/news/san-antonio-missions-to-expand-visitor-services.htm>)

Locations: San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Date Released: 2021-03-31



(<https://www.nps.gov/saan/learn/news/san-antonio-missions-to-expand-visitor-services.htm>)

San Antonio, Texas – San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and UNESCO World Heritage Site plans to expand visitor services at all sites Wednesdays through Sundays, this Wednesday March 24 with the reopening of the park bookstore now open Wednesdays through Sunday 10am-4pm.

ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Isle Royale National Park will open most campgrounds, trails and docks on April 16

(<https://www.nps.gov/isro/learn/news/isle-royale-national-park-will-open-most-campgrounds-trails-and-docks-on-april-16>)

16.htm)

Locations: Isle Royale National Park

Date Released: 2021-03-29

Beginning April 16, 2021, campgrounds, trails, docks and anchorages at Isle Royale National Park will be open, with the exception of the Minong trail, North Desor campground and Little Todd campground. The National Park Service (NPS) Houghton Visitor Center will re-open to the public on April 19.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Park Experiences More Than 12 million Visits in 2020

(<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/news/park-experiences-more-than-12-million-visits-in-2020.htm>)

Locations: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Date Released: 2021-03-02



(<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/news/park-experiences-more-than-12-million-visits-in-2020.htm>)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park experienced the second busiest year on record in 2020. In spite of a 46-day, full park closure this spring and partial closures through August due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the park had 12,095,720 visits.

WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Weir Farm National Historical Park Implements Federal Mask Requirement for COVID-19 Prevention and Protection

(<https://www.nps.gov/wefa/learn/news/2021-02-02-masks.htm>)

Locations: Weir Farm National Historical Park

Date Released: 2021-02-04



(<https://www.nps.gov/wefa/learn/news/2021-02-02-masks.htm>)

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit national parks and National Park Service (NPS) facilities, and in support of President Biden's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, Weir Farm National Historical Park is requiring face masks.

Ozark National Scenic Riverways implements federal mask requirement for COVID-19 prevention and protection

(<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/news/ozark-national-scenic-riverways-implements-federal-mask-requirement-for-covid-19-prevention-and-protection.htm>)

Locations: Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Date Released: 2021-02-03



(<https://www.nps.gov/ozar/learn/news/ozark-national-scenic-riverways-implements-federal-mask-requirement-for-covid-19-prevention-and-protection.htm>)

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit national parks and National Park Service (NPS) facilities, and in support of President Biden's Executive Order on Protecting the Federal Workforce and Requiring Mask-Wearing, NPS is immediately implementing a mask requirement for employees, visitors, partners and contractors.

Tags: [covid-19](#) (<https://www.nps.gov/media/article-search.htm?q=COVID-19>)

Other Federal Resources and Information

Leading the Federal Response

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/) (<https://www.cdc.gov/>) at the [US Department of Health and Human Services](https://www.hhs.gov/) (<https://www.hhs.gov/>) is the lead federal agency with responsibility for public health.

Last updated: April 16, 2025

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