

Hiker Restart Plan Starting in June

The BEC has approved the restart plan that we submitted for the Hiker Activity. Our Hikers must adhere to the conditions that we described in the plan.

With the information we have now, there is one detail we are not sure of – that is the size of the group of hikers on any hike and the make-up of the group. The size of any group for any activity, at one time, was a maximum of 10. That size dropped to a smaller allowed group at one time. Additionally, at one time, members of a group were limited to people living in the same residence. We hope to verify these limitations before the end of the month. Although we do not anticipate a problem, we may have to modify the restart plan.

Additionally, public health guidance from state and local authorities may require plan modifications. The BEC will monitor this guidance. Our Hiker activity experiences may also lead to some adjustments in our plan as we go forward.

Proposed Hiker activity health safety measures (i.e. face coverings, distancing 6 ft. or more, gloves, etc.):

- When planning the hike, check the size of the group limits specified by public health authorities.
- Check the park website to determine if the trail-head and parking lots, or the entire park itself are closed. Some websites may not be up to date (or different pages may have conflicting information) so verify with the park ranger (or other official) to confirm.
- Car Pooling is not allowed because a 6-foot social distance cannot be maintained. So each hiker must bring his car.
- When conducting your pre-hike, check on the availability of parking (both Park parking and nearby street parking) (remember, each hiker must bring his car).
- Each person must maintain a 6-foot social distance from other people. This distance should be increased when SIR hikers and other people are breathing heavily with exertion when they pass others on a steep trail or on bicycles.
- Each hiker must bring a face mask and wear it whenever six-feet between the hiker and any other person cannot be maintained. Hikers should be prepared at the minimum to wear masks when in parking lots, staging areas, and around entrance gates since they can be crowded, making it difficult to maintain 6-foot social distancing. Hikers should also be prepared to put on masks when hiking on narrow or busy trails.
- Bring hand sanitizer.

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