



City of Virginia Beach

COVID-19 Phase One Beach Opening

Operating Procedures

May 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Welcoming everyone to our World Class beaches is the priority of the City of Virginia Beach. Our City is committed to this goal in a way that's safe for our residents, visitors and the thousands of frontline staff who bring the beaches to life.

Reopening the beaches safely will require a coordinated effort that focuses on these key components: cleaning high-touch surfaces, educating guests on how they can enjoy the beach with physical distancing and enforcing healthy guidelines through interaction with Beach Ambassadors and Clean Teams.

These are the pillars of the Phase One Beach Opening Operating Procedures:

- Cleaning
- Distancing
- Education
- Enforcement

The following strategies will be utilized to support the pillars of Phase One Reopening:

- Divide the oceanfront, bayfront, and Sandbridge into manageable "zones," or areas of engagement and enforcement including the bike path and boardwalk.
- Deploy Clean Teams to work in shifts to clean "high-touch areas," restrooms and shower towers.
- Deploy Beach Ambassadors to serve as frontline for enforcement of safe distancing on the beaches.
- Post collateral education materials throughout resort area, with emphasis of regulations at all beach access points.

Questions regarding these operating procedures may be directed to Deputy City Manager, Ronald H. Williams, Jr. at 757-385-4242 or rwilliams@vbgov.com

CLEANING

Cleaning staff will work in 2-person teams with one floater relief team. Cleaning will follow a set 10-12 hour schedule during the week and on weekends.

At the Oceanfront, Clean Teams will cover a 5-block area from the Boardwalk and Atlantic Avenue.

Teams in the 40-block area will be wiping and spraying down high-touch surfaces such as:

- water fountains
- shower towers,
- railing in close proximity to all beach entries
- portable toilet door handles
- bollard lighting at each beach entry
- Wipe down the tops of the lighted posts at every beach entry
- Wipe the down to the third post of the boardwalk railing on either side of every beach opening

Disinfectant-level cleaning of all public restrooms will adhere to CDC guidelines.

The following supplies will support the Clean Team operations:

- Uniforms in high-visibility colors that mirror messaging from education collateral
- Disposable gloves
- Masks (for staff)
- Paper towels
- Bulk disinfectant liquid per CDC guidelines
- Garbage bags
- Garbage cans on wheels
- High volume sprayers

DISTANCING

Beachgoers will be required to practice physical distancing of at least 6-feet between each person unless they are with family members.

Vendors of rental beach umbrellas and chairs shall adhere to CDC guidelines in educating beachgoers of distancing and disinfecting all equipment before and after every use.

Groups of more than 10 beachgoers is prohibited.

The wearing of masks is encouraged.

Acceptable Activities:

- Resting
- Sunbathing
- Walking
- Exercising
- Swimming/bathing
- Fishing (consistent with City ordinance)
- Surfing (consistent with City ordinance)
- Other board and paddle sports (consistent with City ordinance)
- Individual/family play

Prohibited Activities:

- Group sports (volleyball, football, frisbee, etc.) are prohibited
- Speakers are prohibited
- Large coolers are prohibited
- Alcohol is prohibited
- Tents and groupings of umbrellas are prohibited
- Fishing on sand beaches (Jetty to 42nd Street) in the Resort Area is prohibited

Parking garages and surface lots will be limited to 50% capacity.

No entertainment or programming that generate mass gatherings will be permitted.

Beach playsets will remain closed.

EDUCATION

In order to educate the public and emphasize the importance of creating a safe beach environment, the City will deploy a mixture of messaging media.

This will include:

- 70 Boardwalk 4'x8' frames with mesh banners
- Beach Access poster cases at each street
- 7x7x13 steel towers with mesh signs on the beach
- Coroplast metal yard signs on greenbelts and beach
- Boardwalk and sidewalk decals
- Signage at parking lots and garages
- Social media outreach
- LED traffic message boards

Additionally, coordinated messaging will be included in restaurants, hotels and retail establishments.

Sample Education Banner



ENFORCEMENT

Beach Ambassadors will provide friendly visual “reminders” to guests about physical distancing and are the frontline representatives that will engage beachgoers.

When Ambassadors encounter individuals or groups that are not distancing, they will ask for voluntary compliance to spread out.

If voluntary compliance is not achieved, Beach Ambassador will request assistance from City Public Safety Staff.

Public safety will monitor crowd density on beaches and in the water via routine patrols, video surveillance, and marine boat patrols.

Beach Ambassadors will monitor the beach capacity and encourage guests to move to the next block if a block is nearing capacity.

If overcrowding occurs, Public Safety will initiate temporary beach closures. Each oceanfront block has a crowd limitation of 1,660 beachgoers. When this capacity is exceeded, Ambassadors and City public safety officials will temporarily close beach.

Sample Regulatory Signage

COVID-19 Beach Regulations

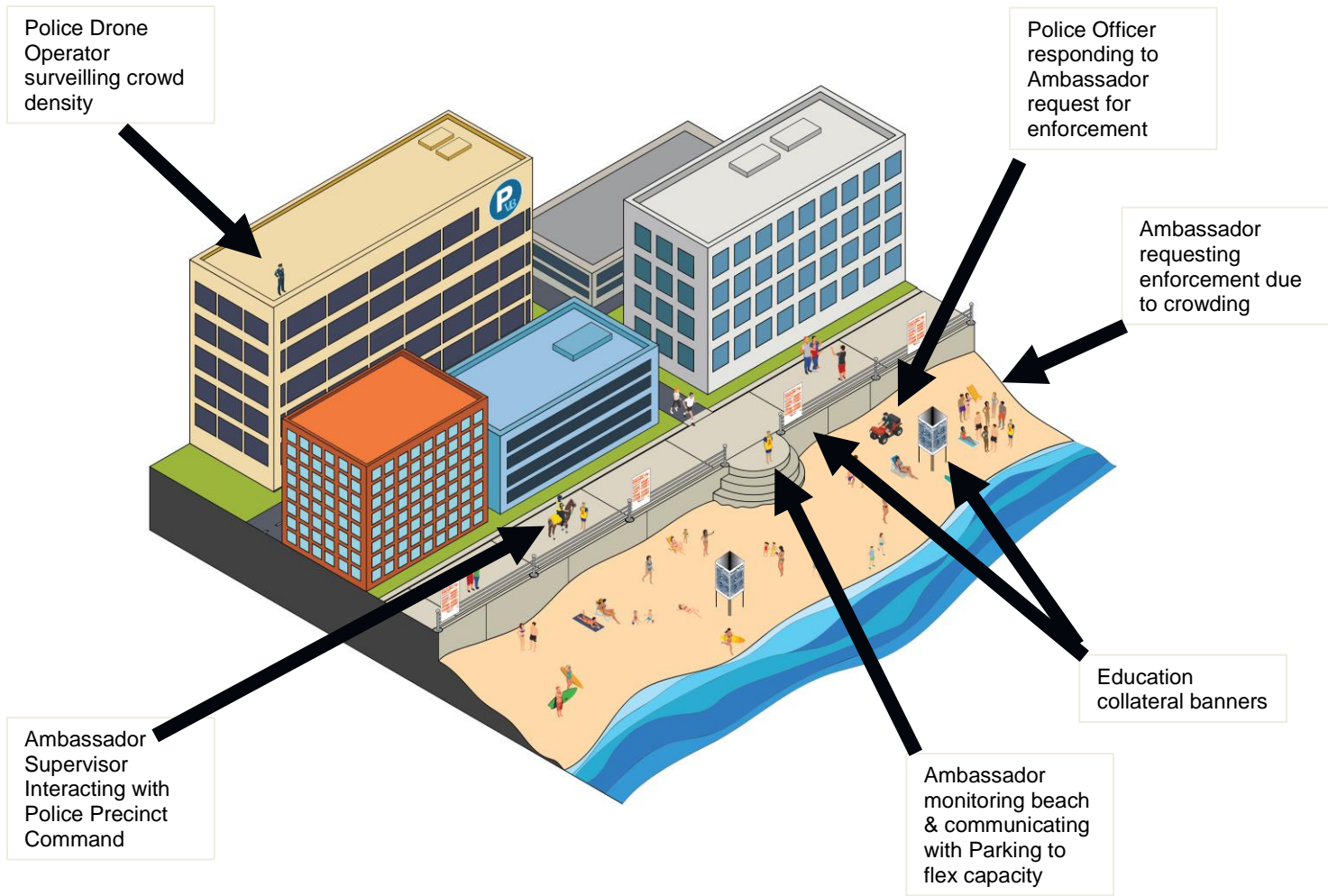
Beachgoers must maintain a 6-foot distance between each other except for family members

Beachgoers may not gather in groups of more than 10 people

Prohibited Activities:

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Interoperability Illustration



LIFESAVING COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Ocean lifeguard services are provided by a private contractor (Resort) and the City's EMS Department (Sandbridge). Both organizations have policies in place to ensure lifeguards are protected as they perform their duties. Lifeguards will be issued face coverings to wear while transiting public areas and when interacting with the public. Since masks may impede the use of whistles, steps will be taken to provide a social distancing zone around each lifeguard stand. This will allow the guards to safely relax their masks when necessary.

The Sandbridge Lifeguards will each be issued a gaiter that can be quickly pulled up when needed to interact with a member of the public.

The Virginia Beach Lifesaving Service will at a minimum provide surgical style masks to all lifeguards. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) will be available to each lifeguard for first aid/medical response. Supervisors on ATVs will be equipped with higher level PPE kits, including N95 masks and gowns, for use during aerosol generating procedures (i.e. CPR).

All providers will receive extra training on COVID-related topics including hazard recognition, sanitation and proper use of PPE. Officers from the Virginia Beach Department of EMS will monitor lifeguard activities to ensure compliance with best safety and patient care practices.