

Playground Management Guidance Document

Playgrounds spaces are important places for communities. The following tips are intended to guide playground management decisions.

1. Install and Maintain Signage: Post Playground Guidance for Visitors

There is potential for confusion among visitors about expectations for playground use, particularly as state, county, and municipal guidelines vary and potentially change from day to day. Post the expectations for use in a highly visible area(s).



2. Clearly Identify Maintenance Procedures to Visitors

It is expected that there will be apprehension and varying expectations from visitors regarding the maintenance – and particularly the sanitation – as children and families begin to return to use playgrounds. While Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance suggests that it is impractical and an inefficient use of resources to spray disinfectants on outdoor areas, it is understandable that expectations for sanitation efforts on playgrounds may vary across communities and installations.

It is likely that some maintenance plans will call for increased maintenance of equipment and playground areas. NPPS encourages to use EPA approved disinfectants.



Communicate with your visitors to inform them of the frequency and actions that are taken for playground maintenance. In this way, visitors may make informed decisions on their comfort with the children under their care to utilize the equipment. Do expect that some visitors may be attempting to sterilize areas of equipment on their own and we suggest to address this in your posted rules.

3. Sanitizer & Sunscreen Recommendations

Environmental health considerations are important for children’s play areas. NPPS has encouraged adults to pack both sanitizer and sunscreen for their visits. NPPS suggests the installation of sanitizer and sunscreen stations. It is vitally important to provide sanitizer for use before, during, and after playground visits – since wash facilities are often in limited availability near playgrounds. NPPS recommends providing sunscreen along side sanitizing stations as many adult skin cancers are linked to childhood sun exposure. Both stations provide an important opportunity to address the importance of public health at playground facilities.

4. CDC Guidance

CDC has issued several documents which provide guidance for practices involving sanitation of outdoor areas.



Visit playgroundsafety.org to learn about playground injury prevention tips and what you can do to create S.A.F.E.™ and fun playgrounds.