Shawnee Mountain
COVID-19 Health Risks Mitigation Plan

SKI WELL, BE WELL
SHAWNEE MOUNTAIN SKI AREA OPERATING BEST PRACTICES
WINTER 2020-21
Shawnee Mountain values and prioritizes the health and safety of its guests, staff, and local Pocono Mountain community. We are committed to implementing the following operating best practices as established by the NSAA for the 2020-21 winter season, or for as long as needed, scaled appropriately in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ski industry leaders from across the country established these foundational best practices according to scientific guidelines put forth by infectious disease experts, including the CDC and WHO.

**Shawnee Mountain will comply with additional federal, state and local regulations as they are implemented.**

Ski sports are a way for people to play in wide-open spaces, and to take advantage of the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation. For decades, ski area owners and operators have managed skier numbers and safety in daily operations, collaborating with fellow industry experts to offer safe and memorable experiences. The National Ski Areas Association, state and regional ski associations, and Shawnee Mountain commit to providing outdoor recreation in ways that promote health and safety, and reduce the risk of infection.

Shawnee Mountain is committed to supporting a healthy and thriving Pocono Mountain Community. We will continue to partner with local agencies to maintain the success and character of the community in which we operate.
SAFE WORKING, SAFE RECREATING

Here is how Shawnee Mountain is helping to keep our employees, guests, and community healthy:

Face Coverings are Required
Shawnee Mountain will require face coverings that align with CDC recommendations whenever physical distancing cannot be achieved. This includes both indoor and outdoor spaces, except when eating or drinking.

Physical Distancing
Shawnee Mountain will create operational plans that allow for appropriate spacing between parties. This includes but is not limited to the following parts of the operation: lift queues, ticket queues, ski and snowboard lessons, employee spaces, and food and beverage outlets.

Cleaning and Disinfection
Shawnee Mountain will adopt cleaning and disinfection strategies for all areas of our operation, including high-touch areas such as restrooms, restaurants, dining facilities, ticket offices, and rental shops. All cleaning products used will follow CDC and EPA guidance on agents which are effective against COVID-19.

Operating Plans
Shawnee Mountain will review and amend both our overall and individual departmental operating plans to: comply with local regulations; maintain physical distancing requirements; and adhere to cleaning and disinfection best practices.

INDOOR SPACES: Shawnee Mountain will comply with local regulations regarding the management of indoor spaces.

OUTDOOR SPACES: Shawnee Mountain will create detailed, scalable operating plans for the management of outdoor spaces including base areas, lifts and ski terrain.

“Protocols that promote social distancing and the health of all will ensure the viability of a great ski, ride, and tubing experience, provide economic certainty for our mountain communities, and enable our guests and teams to safely do the things they love with the ones they love.” Wade Martin, Co-President, POWDR
Stay home or go home when experiencing the following symptoms:

• fever or chills
• cough
• shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
• fatigue
• muscle aches
• headache
• loss of smell or taste
• sore throat
• congestion or runny nose
• nausea or vomiting
• diarrhea
• fever or chills
• cough
• shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
• fatigue
• muscle aches

Communication
Shawnee Mountain will communicate our plans and requirements to guests prior to their arrival at the ski area, stressing the shared responsibility in keeping our slopes safe. Guests will be made aware of their obligations, including the requirement to wear a face covering whenever physical distancing cannot be achieved. Shawnee Mountain will also post on-site signage notifying guests and employees of required best practices to help stop the spread.

Reporting and Notification
Shawnee Mountain will comply with state and local public health orders and follow CDC best practices when reporting a positive case of COVID-19 at our resort. Employees will be trained in these practices by our ski area leadership.

Skiing is a weather-based business requiring the daily scaling of operations to respond to current conditions. As such, our industry is uniquely prepared to pivot its operations.

We are confident in our expertise of managing outdoor recreation spaces. Skiing and snowboarding offer low-risk, high-value recreation and it is our goal to provide that to our guests, even if some indoor or close-contact activities have to be scaled back or put on hold. Shawnee Mountain is committed to a collaborative relationship with state and local authorities to work together for solutions to keep ski areas open, and to keep guests and staff safe.

Employee Training
Shawnee Mountain employees will be trained in COVID-19 safety and disinfection protocols, consistent with recommendations from the CDC.

Employee Wellness Checks
Shawnee Mountain will perform random wellness checks of all employees. Employees will be sent home or asked to stay home if they have come into contact with a positive COVID-19 case and/or exhibit relevant symptoms.
LIFTS

There are thousands of outdoor recreation options but what makes the ski industry different is its uphill transport: aerial ropeways like chairlifts, trams and gondolas, and surface conveyors. Of these, chairlifts are the most common.

NSAA serves as the secretariat of the American National Standards Institute Accredited Standards Committee B77, which develops design requirements, specifications for training, and operation and maintenance requirements for aerial ropeways.

NSAA believes that Shawnee Mountain can effectively operate their ropeways without additional risk of infection by setting forth these best practices.

Face coverings will be mandatory on all lifts.

Lift Queues
Physical distancing in lift queues occurs organically due to the length of skis and snowboards. Shawnee Mountain employees have vast experience managing queues and the expertise to ensure a consistent flow of appropriately-spaced traffic.

Loading the Chair
Guests will be asked to self-group and load the chair with their traveling party. Lift attendants will not require guests to ride a chairlift with people they do not know. High capacity chairlifts and closed cabin carriers may be the exception, and may be loaded in a way that allows for physical distancing.

Riding the Chair
The average chairlift ride is 7 minutes, considerably shorter than most transportation activities such as riding a bus or taking a trip in an airplane. The average chairlift travels at approximately 5 mph, 7 feet every second, providing constant directional air flow. Chairs are spaced approximately 50 feet apart. Express lifts, such as our Tomahawk Express Quad, travel at nearly 17 mph, with chairs spaced over 100 feet apart.
Shawnee Mountain is committed to providing outdoor recreation in ways that reduce the risk of infection.

Open Air Chairlifts & Carpet Lifts

Our lifts are open air chairs and carpets where the rider experiences a constant flow of fresh, clean air.

Chairlifts check the boxes for low-risk transportation and recreation.

- Face coverings required
- Outdoor environment
- Skiers and snowboarders will ride the lift with their traveling party
- Lift rides are generally 5-10 minutes, and almost always under 15 minutes
- Lifts travel between 5 and 17mph, creating constant one-way directional airflow
- Chairs are typically spaced 50 or more feet apart

Unloading the Lift

Standard Shawnee Mountain safety rules and on-mountain signage require that people clear the unload area quickly after disembarking. Once clear of the chair, skiers and riders have wide open spaces on which to slide.
BENEFITS AND ADVANTAGES OF SKI AREAS

Ski areas provide low-risk outdoor recreation opportunities for millions of Americans. Here’s what makes the ski industry uniquely positioned to do so:

Space
U.S. ski areas provide hundreds of acres of land for outdoor recreation. Ski area operators are experts at monitoring and managing the flow and volume of traffic in their outdoor spaces.

Natural Outdoor Environment
The majority of time spent at a ski area is spent outside in the fresh air, cruising down runs.

Standard Gear
Face coverings, including neck gaiters, goggles, gloves or mittens, and helmets are standard pieces of skiing or snowboarding gear.

Slope Safety Etiquette
Long-standing skiing and snowboarding etiquette requires guests to respect one another and give space between themselves and other skiers and riders. Safe skiers leave space between other skiers.

“The ski industry plays an important part of the overall travel and tourism sector. Nationwide, alpine resorts provide a great opportunity for travelers to get outside and recreate in a mountain environment with wide open spaces.”
Roger Dow, President and CEO of U.S. Travel Association
Health Benefits
Snowsports provide numerous proven health and wellness benefits to participants. According to the WHO, “regular physical activity benefits both the body and mind.” The organization says that physical activity increases strength and fitness, reduces the risk of cardiovascular and other physical ailments and improves mental health, specifically reducing the risk of depression.1

1 World Health Organization, Q&A: Be Active During COVID-19 (accessed August 2020)

Shared Responsibility for Safety
It is up to every individual, both ski area employee and guest, to do their part to help protect the health and safety of our skiing and snowboarding community. Following requirements to mitigate the risk of infection is part of the social contract between ski area operator and guest.

Touchless Transactions
Shawee Mountain has adopted technologies and procedures to reduce personal contact between employees and guests. These include touchless payment and access technologies, such as advance online purchase and scanning of tickets and passes.

“Research is showing that being outside in a mountain environment can boost our immune systems as well as our mental health and well-being,” says Florence Williams, author of *The Nature Fix: How Being in Nature Can Make us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative.*