



**ICT-P-016**

# Specific protocol for

# Admission to Beaches.

**TOURISM SECTOR**

**CREATION DATE:  
DECEMBER-2020**

**VERSION: 002**

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# FOREWORD

As part of the declaration of a national state emergency throughout the territory of the Republic of Costa Rica, made official by Executive Decree 42227-MP-S, as a result of COVID-19, and, given the characteristics of the pandemic and the various forms of infection of the virus, **preventive health measures have been defined by the Ministry of Health, as the country's governing body for public health.**

## OBJECTIVE AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

The objective of this document is to establish the minimum requirements that allow the reactivation of the tourism sector under the COVID-19 alert, specifically providing guidelines for the safe use and enjoyment of beaches, for the national and foreign population.

The application of this protocol is focused on the use and admission of beaches throughout the national territory, as part of the preventive and mitigation actions dictated by the Ministry of Health for the attention of the COVID-19 alert.

## HYGIENE AND DISINFECTION



### HYGIENE MEASURES

Municipalities, shops in general and lodging services of any nature that have access to the beaches, must guarantee the necessary infrastructure for the proper washing and drying of hands. To do this, they must ensure the availability of soap, paper towels and a trash can for their disposal.



### INFORMATION AND PREVENTION MEASURES FOR THE POPULATION

Municipalities, shops in general and lodging services of any kind that have access to the beaches must display, in areas visible to the public, the preventive measures that the Government of the Republic has issued to contain the COVID-19 disease, included with this protocol, or any other that the Ministry of Health issues and is of a general nature.

# CLEANING OF COMMON AREAS OF SHOPS IN GENERAL AND LODGING SERVICES OF ANY NATURE THAT HAVE ACCESS TO THE BEACHES:



**A**

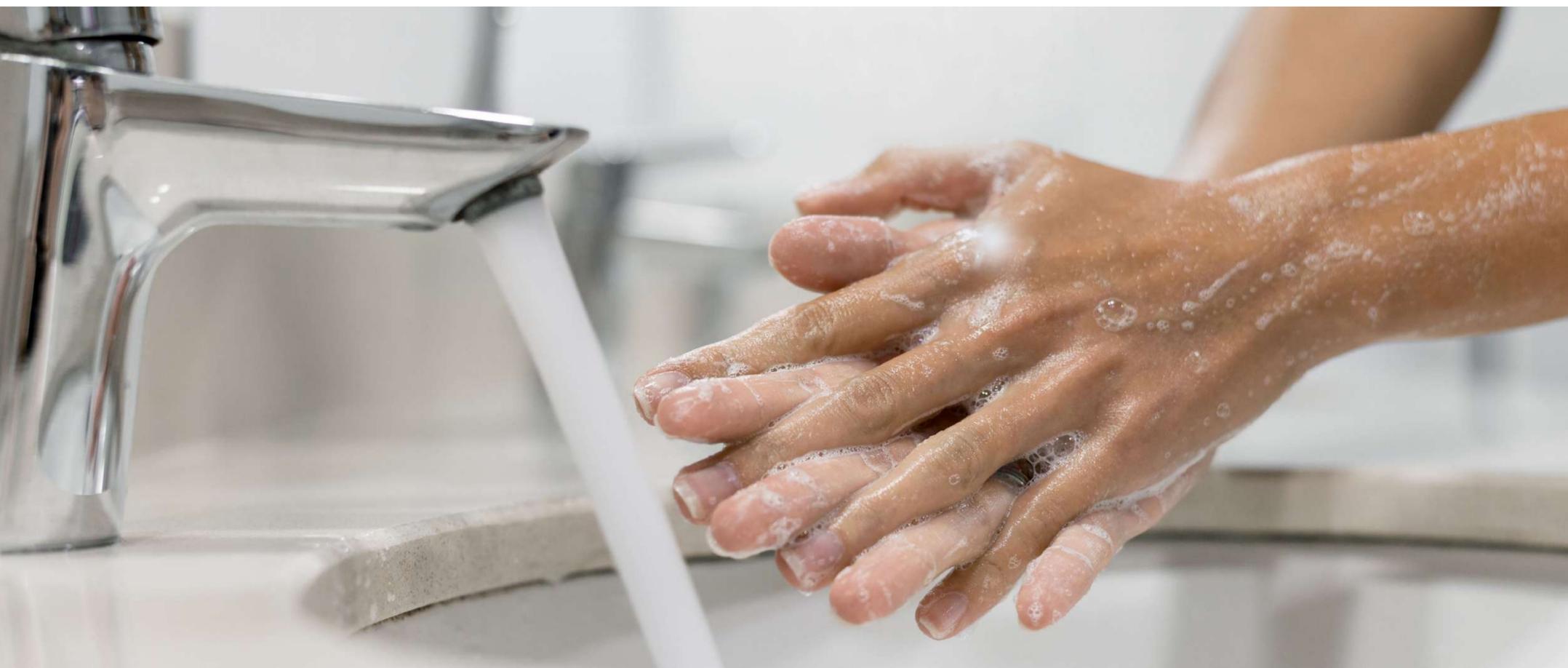
## PROCEDURES FOR HAND WASHING AND DRYING

- Hand washing must be promoted in accordance with the protocol established by the Ministry of Health for this purpose. See annex 1.
- In addition, the protocol for hand washing and drying must be displayed in areas visible to bathers.
- Disposable towels for hand drying must be available in all areas intended for hand washing.
- It must be ensured that the soap used for hand washing is antibacterial.
- There must be a trash can or container available for the disposal of paper towels. It must have a lid, and a non-manually operated opening mechanism to avoid hand contact. Trash cans must be emptied when they reach 80% of their capacity.
- The use of pedal sinks and trash cans is recommended, however, care must be taken to provide facilities for access and use, both with sinks and trash cans, for the population with disabilities.

**B**

## PROCEDURES FOR DISINFECTION WITH EFFECTIVE ANTI-VIRUS PRODUCTS

- Effective cleaning products against the virus should be used, ensuring the greatest disinfection of all areas. The products must be duly authorized by the Ministry of Health for all equipment that shops or lodging services have for common use by visitors or tourists, which must be disinfected once the visitor or tourist returns them.
- Cleaning personnel shall use only products supplied by the company, provided that they must be effective against the virus and its spread.
- We must ensure compliance with the General Guidelines for cleaning and disinfection of physical spaces against Coronavirus (COVID-19), issued by the Ministry of Health. Which can be accessed from the following link:  
[https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/sobre\\_ministerio/prensa/docs/ls\\_pg\\_032\\_limpieza\\_desinfeccion\\_29052020.pdf](https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/sobre_ministerio/prensa/docs/ls_pg_032_limpieza_desinfeccion_29052020.pdf)



# WATER ACTIVITIES

In the case of aquatic recreational activities, the provisions of Protocol ICT-P-003 - Aquatic Recreational Activities must be followed with regards to regulations for cleaning, disinfection and compliance with hand washing and drying protocols, as applicable.

The following are important aspects of the ICT-P-003- Aquatic Recreational Activities protocol that must be considered.

## TO CARRY OUT TOURS IN OR ON THE WATER



**A** The company must designate who is in charge of delivering clean and disinfected safety equipment to each client, following the sanitation measures and correct handling of equipment that must go through a quarantine period, when applicable



**B** The company must assign a minimum number of people responsible to make the appropriate adjustment to each client's safety equipment, prior to and at the end of the activity, following the safety and hygiene protocols. To carry out this task, it is recommended that the employee use the required PPE, limit conversations to a minimum and then carry out the correct protocol for disposing of PPE when appropriate, washing and drying hands correctly.



**C** If a safety talk must be given for the Aquatic Recreational Activity, the company must ensure that the minimum physical distancing is met, in addition and preferably, this talk should be assigned to certain people and a specific area.



**D** When carrying out the tour or activity and depending on the devices used, it is not possible to comply with the recommended physical distancing and the use of PPE, the company must ensure, the allocation of groups based on social bubbles. If the client is not accompanied, it is recommended to work smaller groups than usual, with the consent of the participants.



**E** At the end of the tour, the company must ensure that each customer returns the safety equipment (EPES), which must be washed and disinfected according to the recommended measures, before using it again on another tour.



**F** At the end of the activity and once the meeting point is reached, the company must encourage participants to wash their hands and ensure the availability of all necessary supplies for this purpose. In the event that hand washing cannot be guaranteed, the company must make gel-alcohol available to the customer to comply with the protocol.

## IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES FOR DISINFECTION

Equipment used for Aquatic Recreational Activities, such as: life jackets, paddles, helmets, kayaks, rafts, inner tubes, canoes, surfboards, paddle boards, snorkeling equipment (mask, fins, snorkel), must be constantly cleaned and disinfected.

It is recommended to evaluate the quarantine process (cleaning or disinfecting) if necessary, depending on the material of the product or surface, as well as the type of detergent to use according to the equipment. (See Annex 7 to this document).

# COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES PROVIDED BY MUNICIPAL PATENTS



In the case of municipal patents for the rental of chairs, umbrellas, and others, these items must be delivered properly disinfected and, when returned, they must be properly disinfected before another bather can again use it.

It is recommended that the establishment take the temperature of all users before providing the service. If a participant has a temperature above 37.5° C, it is recommended that the service not be provided.

## CLEANING AND DISINFECTING PRODUCTS



Cleaning and disinfection products shall be those duly authorized and recommended by the Ministry of Health to fight the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.

## WASTE MANAGEMENT

The establishment must carry out waste management in accordance with the guidelines established in the National Strategy for the Separation, Recovery and Valuation of Waste (ENSRVR) 2016-2021.

The waste product of the cleaning and disinfection, in addition to the disposable personal protective equipment, must be deposited in a single container, preferably with a lid and a foot pedal.

The plastic bag must be closed before being placed in the non-recoverable waste container, and it must not exceed 80% of its capacity. After contact with waste, hand hygiene protocols must always be carried out.

A unique container, preferably lidded and with a foot pedal, for the disposal of waste products from cleaning and disinfection, as well as disposable personal protective equipment must be available.

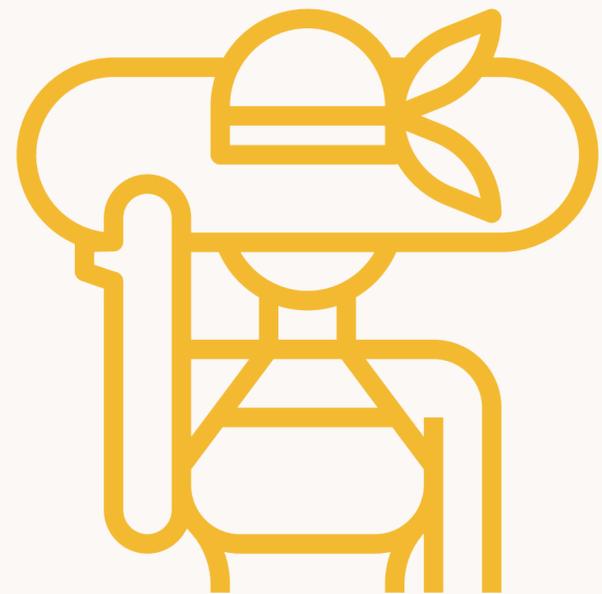
Trash cans must be washed and disinfected daily with water, soap and a chemical product that ensures their hygienic conditions.

The periodicity for the disposal and management of waste must be stipulated in the specific protocol that each Municipality will establish for said purpose.



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR VISITORS OR TOURISTS

- 1** Do not go to the beach if you have symptoms compatible with or associated to COVID-19.
- 2** Keep at least 2 meters away from people you do not live with, both in the water and out.
- 3** Wash and disinfect your hands frequently. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth without first washing your hands.
- 4** Cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing with a disposable tissue or the inner part of your elbow.
- 5** Do not share towels and wash towels and swimsuits as soon as you get home.
- 6** Supervise minors and insist that they comply with preventive measures.
- 7** Follow the rules and conditions of use of the beach. Respect the instructions and recommendations of the rescue and first aid services.
- 8** If you present symptoms compatible with COVID19, leave the beach as soon as possible and consult your nearest health center.



## PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Visitors are advised to use personal protective equipment (PPE) at times of interaction with other bathers who do not belong to their same social bubble and with business staff when requiring the provision of services.

Municipal patents providing a service as well as their employees must always wear their personal protective equipment (PPE).

Municipal patents are advised to validate their quality on the basis of Costa Rica and international national standards, which can be consulted at the following link:  
<https://www.inteco.org/juntos-en-la-prevencion>.



# GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF THE BEACH

## AUTHORIZATION

The authorization for the use and enjoyment of the beaches will be carried out through the Ministry of Health, by way of a founded resolution, in accordance with the changes in the alerts and the authorizations that are established according to the behavior of the pandemic.

In turn, local chambers of tourism and their affiliates, Development Associations, Neighborhood Committees, Ecological Blue Flag Program Committees (BAE) and tourism entrepreneurs in general from the different areas are urged to provide collaboration in the implementation of this protocol through actions such as displaying signs regarding the prevention and hygiene measures to be followed, placement of sinks and soap and alcohol gel dispensers, demarcation of the areas for visitors and tourists that guarantee the recommended physical distancing, among others.



## LOAD CAPACITY AND GAUGES

In addition, they must determine the maximum capacity established for the beaches for the enjoyment of national and international tourists, taking into account at least the characteristics of the beach and the use of its spaces.

To establish this capacity, it is recommended to divide the total area of the beach by the minimum safety distance determined by the Health Authorities (physical distancing). This capacity must be made known to national and international tourists and kept in visible places on the authorized beaches.

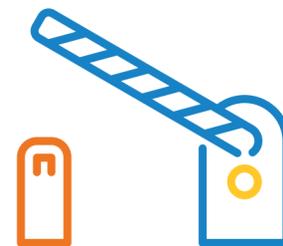
The municipalities, together with the support of other government authorities, shall exercise random control according to their operational capabilities, for compliance with the provisions of this document.



## ACCESS CONTROL

In those cases, where the topography of the beach authorized for the enjoyment of the general public allows it, the municipalities may implement an access control, as well as the way in which it will be carried out and in addition, at that access control it will be possible assess the installation of the necessary infrastructure so that users can wash and dry their hands.

In turn, the joint work with the different Development Associations, Neighborhood Committees, Committees of the Ecological Blue Flag Program (BAE), Tourist Police, businessmen from different areas, should be assessed for the implementation of access controls, and the like; that facilitate and guarantee access control, when the topographic characteristics of the beach allow it.



## OPENING TIMES

The opening hours of the beaches will be established in accordance with the sanitary guidelines stipulated by the Ministry of Health, as well as the current alerts issued by the National Emergency Commission.

Likewise, the schedule for the enjoyment of the beaches will be in accordance with the vehicle restriction, as follows:

- Monday to Friday: until 10:00 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays: until 8:00 p.m.



## PARKING AREAS

When parking areas are available for the use of tourists visiting the beaches, they must operate under the guidelines established by the Ministry of Health, and these must be complied with by the proprietor or administrator.

No vehicles are allowed in the beach area, with the exception of official vehicles for emergency care.

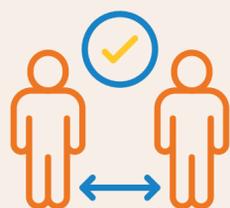


## PHYSICAL DISTANCING BETWEEN VISITORS AND TOURISTS

Physical distancing between people must be encouraged, except in those cases involving the same social bubble.

It is the responsibility of the Municipalities, businesses in general and lodging services of any nature that have access to beaches, to inform visitors and tourists about the respect they should have for physical distancing recommended by the Ministry of Health.

Additionally, it is recommended to evaluate the signage of these spaces, using ropes, pennants, umbrellas or lettering, among others.



## FOOD AND BEVERAGES

For the purpose of ensuring food safety, food must not be prepared during the stay on the beaches and should not be exchanged with persons other than the social bubble to which it belongs.

In the case of shops in general, lodgings of any kind and municipal patent owners that market beverages and food, they must comply with the provisions set forth in Protocol ICT-P-008: Protocol for Food Services to the Public due to COVID-19.



## STREET SALES OR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Street sales in beach areas and food sales are prohibited, as well as physical contact services such as temporary tattoos, massages, etc.

This type of services will be authorized, provided they have their respective commercial patent and operating permit.



## HAMMOCKS, AWNINGS, CHAIRS AND UMBRELLAS

Shops in general, lodgings of any nature that have access to the beaches, as well as municipal patent owners that provide or rent hammocks, awnings, chairs, umbrellas, surfboards, implements for water recreational activities to visitors or tourists, must be clean and disinfect the items when they are given to the bather, as well as when the bather returns them.

It must, at all times, ensure that they are located respecting physical distancing, unless it is the same social bubble. They must also be distributed in the areas delimited for use by visitors and tourists. Users are advised to use their own towel or similar when using this equipment.



## GROUP EXCURSIONS

Group visits or excursions to beaches authorized to open to the general public are prohibited, the above in order to collaborate with the non-transmission of the virus that produces the COVID-19 disease



## COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

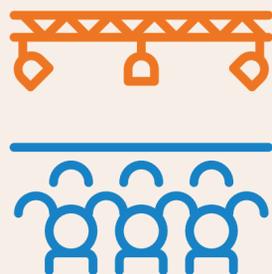
The practice of collective sports or recreational activities, where physical contact is present in the performance of sport or activity, is not allowed, unless it is the same social bubble. Individual sports or recreational activities are authorized.

Mass training of people who do not belong to the same social bubble will also be prohibited.



## MASS CONCENTRATION ACTIVITIES

Mass concentration activities (such as concerts, sports races, triathlons, beach parties, among others) will not be permitted, until authorized by the Ministry of Health.



## TOILETS, SHOWERS, CHANGING ROOMS AND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

Bathrooms, showers, changing rooms and children's play areas belonging to the municipalities, shops in general and places of lodging of any nature that have access to the beaches, and which are commonly used by bathers, shall be equipped with soap, gel alcohol and disposable towels, as well as dumpsters for the correct disposal of waste (pedal trash cans). In addition, the informative material should be placed on the correct way of washing and drying hands.

The correct frequency of cleaning and disinfection should be ensured, recommended for this purpose at least 4 times a day, and that frequency should be increased on days of greatest influx of visitors.

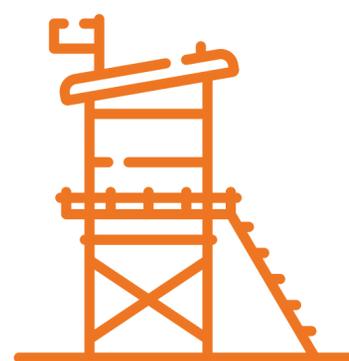


## LIFEGUARD TOWERS

Municipalities, shops in general, as well as places of lodging of any nature that have access to the beaches and manage the lifeguard tower, must equip it with soap and water for the hand washing of the staff stationed in the tower, as well as a garbage can for the correct storage of waste.

Protocols for hand washing and drying, sneezing and coughing, as well as alternative ways of greeting must be displayed.

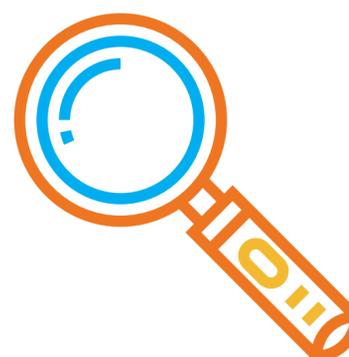
The correct physical distance between the personnel stationed in the lifeguard towers and the users must be ensured and the equipment used, as well as the tower, must be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning of the day, at the end of the day or when staff changes are made if appropriate.



## INSPECTIONS

The municipalities, together with the support of other government authorities, shall exercise random control according to their operational capabilities, for compliance with the provisions of this document.

Likewise, the Local Emergency Committees should assess, for the execution of inspections, joint work with the different Development Associations, Neighborhood Committees, Ecological Blue Flag Program Committees (BAE), Tourist Police, entrepreneurs from the different areas, and the like; which facilitate and ensure access control, where the topographic characteristics of the beach permit.



# COMMUNICATION

It is up to the municipalities, shops in general and lodging services of any nature that have access to beaches, to define a communication channel regarding the measures to be taken for the mitigation of COVID-19, as well as the guidelines that are updated regarding the use of beaches enabled.

Protocols for sneezing and coughing, hand washing, other forms of greeting, not touching the face and high-risk populations, in the most common languages used by tourists, must be posted in visible spaces. (See annexes).

Information should be provided on access, hours and allowed capacity, if necessary, as well as protocols related to COVID-19.



## APPROVAL, MONITORING AND EVALUATION AUTHORIZATION

The institutional leader who will approve this sectoral protocol is Mr. Gustavo Segura Sancho, Minister of Tourism.