



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Chequamegon-Nicolet National
Forest
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News Release

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CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST DELAYS OPENING OF ALL RECREATION SITES, NOT ALLOWING CAMPING OR CAMPFIRES

Rhineland, WI – APRIL 10, 2020 -- In alignment with current federal, state and local guidance for social distancing and to ensure health safety of its employees, visitors and volunteers, the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will be delaying the opening of all recreation sites and not allowing camping or campfires until further notice. In addition, the Forest is implementing a group-size limitation of 10 people or less per group across the entire Forest. Last week, the Forest shutdown all restrooms and removed garbage receptacles at recreation sites.

Sites and activities impacted on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest include:

- All Developed Campgrounds (Reservations will be cancelled, and refunds issued for the month of May. The Forest will continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly with additional cancellations in June and/or the reopening of sites on a first-come, first-serve basis.)
- All Day Use Areas (trailheads, picnic areas, boat landings, beaches and the Mountain Fire Tower)
- Lost Lake Cabins, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center and Forest Lodge
- Dispersed (roadside/Forest) camping on the National Forest
- Trails (motorized and non-motorized designated trails)
- All restroom facilities

The General Forest remains open to the public including Forest Roads for hiking, biking and scenic driving. To protect public health and safety, all visitors to the Forest are encouraged to:

- Avoid visiting the forest if you are sick and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Follow CDC guidance on personal hygiene and social distancing before and during your visit to the Forest.
- Take your trash with you when you leave.

- Please make arrangements to use the restroom before or after your visit to the forest. Unmanaged waste creates a health hazard for our employees and for other visitors.
- If an area is crowded, please search for a less occupied location. Also consider avoiding the Forest during high-use periods.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest takes the safety of our personnel, contractors, volunteers, and visitors seriously. COVID-19 poses unique and unprecedented risks to our workforce, visitors, and the communities we live in and support. The potential for crowded conditions in the coming days and weeks as spring arrives in parking areas, trailheads, and at popular forest destinations are undermining the country's critical efforts to contain the spread.

“Personal responsibility is more important now more than ever. Safe and responsible use of your national forests will reduce impacts to local communities who may be at risk from the virus,” said Paul Strong, Forest Supervisor on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest will continue to coordinate its COVID-19 response in alignment with all federal, state and local guidance. When visiting your public lands, it is important to be aware of current forest limitations. Everyone is urged to take the precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The most recent CDC guidelines are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>. Additional information is also available at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has moved to virtual services. Please visit us at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cmnf> and access our forest maps at <https://www.fs.fed.us/ivm/>. You can also follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

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