

May 18, 2020



Reopening Watershed's Kiln Rental Program: Phase 1

In March 2020, Watershed made the difficult decision to cancel all summer programs and other activities on campus due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. Since then, we have closely monitored federal and state guidelines and considered a range of options regarding the use of our kiln facilities beginning in the summer 2020. Below is the rationale for reopening and the guidelines we have developed to ensure the safety of all involved.

1. Why we feel it's safe to reopen.

Working with both the State of Maine's and the CDC's guidelines for public gatherings, Watershed believes we, and our community, can comply with these guidelines and regulations while providing a safe environment in our facilities to fire ceramics.

- As of June 1, 2020 in Maine, gatherings of up to 50 people will be permitted. We will reopen our campus to kiln rentals beginning on June 12, 2020 and group participation will be limited to six individuals.
- Restaurants, retail stores, exercise centers, children's summer camps, lodging and campgrounds, and coastal state parks will all be allowed to reopen in Maine.
- We will be following guidance for social distancing and general threat reduction as suggested by the CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
- Our facilities are located in a well-ventilated location, providing ample space to allow standards of social-distancing to be easily maintained.
- Precautions will be taken between groups to reduce transmission threats.
- We trust our community to act responsibly and within the rules and guidelines as outlined below.

2. When we feel it's safe to reopen

The first available date for rescheduling kiln firings will be June 12, 2020.

3. How we feel it's safe to reopen

- If a participant is experiencing ANY symptoms of infection, or has reason to believe they have had close personal contact with someone exhibiting symptoms, **Do Not Attend**.
- If a participant is in a known high-risk group, *strongly consider not attending*.
- We will schedule staggered, nonoverlapping firings – *all reservations require a three-day gap between it and the previous firing*.
- Firings are limited to six [6] participants or fewer
- No more than one [1] group on the pad at a time
- Strict social distancing whenever practical (6 feet between individuals)

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- Masks shall be worn whenever in proximity to others (less than six feet)
- No food sharing
- All overnight stays are restricted to personal tents or vehicles
- Restroom facilities are available at the Factory. Watershed staff will sanitize facilities between usage (see disinfection requirements in #4 below).
- Renters are restricted to the following areas (**all other buildings are off limits, including the workshop, studio, and clay mixing areas**):
 - Kiln pad and surrounding area
 - Bathroom on second floor of Factory
 - “Glaze” area, including sink, on first floor
- **Limit all firings to participants only.** No visitors.
- *In order to assist us in our ability to participate in effective contact-tracing, if necessary:* If anyone in your group exhibits the symptoms of, or tests positive for, infection with the Covid-19 virus, within thirty days subsequent to their participation in a firing at Watershed, it is the responsibility of the crew leader to inform Watershed immediately.

4. Cleaning Requirements

Watershed staff and kiln renters will share responsibility for ensuring that areas and surfaces are disinfected.

Watershed will, between firings, sterilize the following areas and surfaces using either a commercially available product recommended for disinfecting surfaces, or a solution of bleach and water at ratios recommended by the CDC. **See guidelines here:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/cleaning-disinfecting-decision-tool.html>

- Bathroom at the Factory – all – toilet, sink/taps, doors/handles, floor, light switch, waste basket (w/clean plastic liner)
- Downstairs sink, including sink and associated handles, hose and etc.
 - -- Upstairs clay sink will be inoperable --
- Door and handle to electric kiln room and light switch
- Handle on fire boxes of Train or Catenary
- Burner handles on gas kilns
- Door/handle, electrical and gas burner switches and handles of Bailey Kiln
- Handle of Tool Closet
- Light switches and door handles associated with kiln pad and all areas listed above
- Tables used for final washing of shelves prior to storage
- Watershed will provide hand soap, disinfectant wipes, bleach, dish-soap and sponges for washing surfaces and tools.

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Renters will clean:

- Chairs (six (6) will be available) - wash w/ hot, soapy water, stack/store
- Tables – wash all tables with hot soapy water prior to storing **or using for kiln shelf scraping/washing**
- Tools - wipe all tools before returning to storage – including cords, clamp lights, etc.
- Wash all buckets/containers and miscellaneous common tools, etc. with hot, soapy water
- Wash all sponges with hot, soapy water, wring out thoroughly and place in metal basket by sink
- **Wash any table or other common surface they utilize while in the Factory or on the pad not listed herein**
- There will be **no** refrigeration available. Please bring coolers/ice.
- RENTERS SHALL PROVIDE PAPER TOWELS AND TOILET PAPER. **ALL UNUSED PRODUCTS SHALL BE REMOVED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.**

5. **Additional new rules** (These rules will remain in effect regardless of whether Covid remains a concern.)

- Watershed will provide plastic trash bags. All waste must be removed from the pad and placed in the dumpster – including redeemable/recyclables/unwanted packing materials, bathroom waste, etc.
- Wood delivery may occur within twenty-four hours prior to reserved time slot with advance notice of the Studio Manager. *Wood prep must occur during reserved time slot.* (Once all restrictions are reduced, *wood prep* restriction will be rescinded.)
- Excess wood storage – some limited excess wood may be stored for future use on the pad in the upper field with prior approval of the Studio Manager. Pallets and tarps are the responsibility of the renter.

6. **Rescheduling firings**

Re-reservations will be accepted in the order in which they were originally received by those who rolled-over their deposits or donated them to Watershed. After these slots are filled, reservations will be accepted from all others. Currently, reservations will be accepted for June, July and August, 2020. Reservations for September 2020 and beyond will be accepted purely on a tentative basis contingent on possible construction.