

Protocols for Reopening of Public Swimming Pools

Recent Updates:

8/20/20: Clarified that only outdoor pools are allowed to be open at this time (changes highlighted in yellow).

9/2/20: Clarified that face coverings do not need to be used while in the water (changes highlighted in yellow)

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise that is aligned with California's roadmap to allow the safe reopening of public swimming pools. Public swimming pools include campground pools, club pools, commercial pools, health or fitness clubs, hotel pools, licensed day care facility pools, medical facility pools, mineral spring pools, motel pools, municipal pools, public or private school pools; recreational or mobile home park pools, resort pools, special purpose pools, and swim school pools.

Hot tubs/jacuzzi/spa pools, water parks and splash pads located within amusement parks are to remain closed until allowed to resume modified or full operation.

Only outdoor pools are allowed to be open at this time.

Water slides, rides or other water attractions at the pool should be kept closed

Residential Swimming Pools (i.e. apartment house pools, bed and breakfast inn pools, condominium pools, homeowner association pools) are required to follow the protocols for Reopening Swimming Pools in Shared Residential Facilities.

All public pool operators covered by this protocol must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures that ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

All businesses covered by this protocol must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the business.

Business name:

Facility Address:

Date Posted:

A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE HEALTH (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)

- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- Vulnerable staff (those above age 65, those with chronic health conditions) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick and to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation if applicable.
 - Create a roster of trained back-up employees.
 - Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home has been provided to employees. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID19, including employee's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 exposures occurring between March 19 and July 5 pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-62-20](#).
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) isolate themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The employer's plan should consider a protocol for all quarantined employees to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures.
- In the event that the owner, manager, or operator knows of three (3) or more cases of COVID-19 within the workplace within a span of 14 days the employer must report this cluster to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821. If a cluster is identified at a worksite, the Department of Public Health will initiate a cluster response which includes providing infection control guidance and recommendations, technical support and site-specific control measures. A public health case manager will be assigned to the cluster investigation to help guide the facility response.
- [Employee screenings](#) are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and if the employee has had contact with a person known to be infected COVID-19 in the last 14 days. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.
- Employees who have contact with others are offered, at no cost, an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering should wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their

condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves should not be used. Employees need not wear a face covering when the employee is alone in a private office or a cubicle with a solid partition that exceeds the height of the employee when standing.

- Employees are instructed to wash or replace their face coverings daily.
- Employees need not wear a cloth face covering when entering the water.
- Lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing of others.
 - Designate another employee to monitor implementation of social distancing protocols. All employees should know who this person is and how to contact that person.
- Breaks are staggered to ensure that six (6) feet between employees can be maintained in break rooms at all times.
- Employees are prohibited from eating or drinking anywhere other than designated areas to assure that masks are worn consistently and correctly.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):

- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):

- Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- A copy of this protocol has been distributed to each employee.
- Optional – Describe other measures:

B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Limited use of pool facility to ensure that pool users can maintain 6 feet physical distance from those they do not live with, or a maximum of 50% of pool user capacity.
 - Indicate current pool user capacity: _____ Indicate 50% user capacity: _____
 - Consider implementing reservations for pool use. This could include reserving full lanes for individual lap swimming and half-lanes for individual household use.
 - Lap swimmers should be reminded to maintain 6 feet physical distance from those they do not live with. It may be necessary to limit the number of swimmers that may use a lane for lap swimming at any given time so that swimmers can maintain a safe distance.
- Designate a person(s) that is responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the maximum number of pool users as set forth above is not exceeded. The designated person is also responsible for ensuring that these protocols are adhered to on a daily basis.
- Measures to ensure social distancing (individuals remain at least 6 feet apart from those they do not live with) have been implemented.
 - Change deck layouts and other areas surrounding the pool to ensure that the standing and seating areas can support physical distancing requirements, while maintaining a clear deck space

- of 4 feet around the pool, as required by State law. This can include removing chairs or taping off areas to discourage use.
- Providing physical cues or guides (for example, lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and visual cues (for example, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) and signs to ensure that guests and swimmers stay at least 6 feet apart, both in and out of the water.
- Stagger available lockers in locker rooms to maintain physical distancing.
- Changing rooms and restrooms are monitored to ensure that the number of people inside at one time allows for proper physical distancing.
- Prohibit parties or gatherings in all common areas including the pool.
- When feasible, swim instructors should teach from the pool deck. For those classes that require face-to-face or close contact, recommend having a parent or member of the same household be in the water with the child. Participants of group swimming lessons and spectators on the pool deck are to maintain physical distancing of six feet.

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Visitors arriving at the pool are reminded to wear a face covering at all times (except while eating, drinking, or in the water) while at the pool or on the grounds of the facility. This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. Only individuals who have been instructed not to wear a face covering by their medical provider are exempt from wearing one. To support the safety of your employees and other visitors, a face covering should be made available to visitors who arrive without them.
- Symptom checks are conducted before visitors may enter the facility. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills. These checks can be done in person or through alternative methods such as on-line check in systems or through [signage](#) posted at the entrance to the facility stating that visitors with these symptoms should not enter the premises.
- Conduct a pool safety check to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection and that the pool has been evaluated for safety equipment.
 - Proper operation and maintenance should inactivate virus in the water.
 - Consult with the company or engineer that designed the aquatic venue to decide which [List N disinfectants approved by the EPA](#) are best for the aquatic venue.
- For facilities that have not been operating, flush each of the hot and cold water fixtures for five minutes prior to reopening to replace stale water in the facility's plumbing with a fresh and safe water supply.
- Implement a cleaning and disinfection plan for frequently touched surfaces and for shared objects each time they are used. Use EPA approved disinfectant. The following will be cleaned and disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - Handrails and slides _____
 - Lounge chairs, tabletops _____
 - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper changing stations and showers _____
 - Kick boards and pool noodles _____
 - Common-use facilities (i.e. lockers) _____
 - Restrooms and showers _____
 - Other _____

- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene are provided at all times. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues and trash cans.
- Set up a system so that furniture (e.g. lounge chairs) or other common-use items that need to be cleaned and disinfected are kept separate from already cleaned and disinfected furniture or other shared common-use items.
 - Ensure shared furniture, equipment, towels are protected from being contaminated before use.
- Drinking fountains are covered to prevent usage.
- Discourage pool users from sharing items, particularly those that are difficult to clean and disinfect or those that are meant to come in contact with the face (e.g. goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
- Ensure that the facility has adequate equipment for pool users, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, to minimize sharing wherever possible. Limit the use to one user at a time and clean and disinfect the items after each use.
- Individuals are encouraged to bring their own towels to the pool and should not share towels with those outside of their household.
- Launder towels according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely.
- Ensure ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly. To the maximum extent possible, ensure that ventilation has been increased.
 - Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in all working areas.

D. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC

- A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the pool facility.
- Signage is posted at each public entrance of the pool facility to inform pool users to:
 - Stay home if they are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
 - Maintain social distancing of six feet from non-household members to the extent possible and not to engage in any unnecessary physical contact in the pool.
 - Wash hands often or use sanitizer upon entry into the pool facility
 - Wear a face covering when traveling through common areas of the facility, including to and from the pool and in shared restrooms. Remind swimmers to remove cloth face covering when entering water.

E. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

- Services that are critical to the patrons/residents have been prioritized.
- Measures are instituted to assure access to goods and services for those who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.

You can also find guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for social distancing and facility/surface disinfection procedures at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html#anchor_1589978994218.