



## COVID-19 Guidance: Reopening Phase for Public and Community Swimming Pools

On Friday, May 22, 2020, the Division of Public Health (DPH) issued guidance for public swimming pools regulated by the DPH, as well as community pools that operate as private pools by DPH definition. Pool operators were required to comply with the requirements. Private pools at single-family homes were not covered by this guidance. **Updated guidance released on June 12, 2020 becomes effective June 15, 2020.**

### Public Swimming Pools:

- The pool must have a written plan documenting how high touch surfaces will be properly disinfected, a schedule of disinfection, and who is designated to perform the disinfection. This must be available upon request from DPH either remotely or during on-site inspection.
- All high touch surfaces should be disinfected every 15 minutes to two hours with an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#).
  - Swimming pool area – entrance gate, handle, tables, chairs, all pool handrails, including slides, and drinking fountains
  - Restroom and storage area – dressing room, wall lockers, benches, door handles, flush handle, faucets, light switches, and paper towel dispensers
- Lower pool (deck area and water) occupancy to reduce crowding and to maintain 6 feet separation in and out of pool:
  - Indoor Pools – total not to exceed 60% of fire capacity
  - Outdoor pool – 60% total capacity based on square footage of pool area:
    - Area must be fenced or closed to allow monitoring number of guests at entry/exit points
    - Total capacity is calculated based on 30 square feet per person. Example: 1,000 square-foot pool area divided by 30 square feet per person will allow 33 occupancies.
    - Area that can be used in these calculations is capped at 15,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
    - Usable capacity is currently 60% of total capacity or 250 individuals, whichever is less.
- pH and disinfectant residual shall be measured every one (1) hour in order to ensure proper level to inactivate the virus in the water.
- Lifeguards, pool staff or others tasked by the facility with enforcing COVID-19 guidance must be on pool deck during all operating hours.
- Smaller facilities can opt to monitor pool area and chemistry at least twice per day in lieu of staging staff at pool but must also reduce overall pool capacity to less than 50. Cleaning may occur less than every two hours but should be done multiple times per day. Chairs and other shared items used must be cleaned between users.
- Aquatic classes are permitted if participants can maintain distance and any shared equipment is disinfected after use. This includes Mommy and Me type classes where a parent and child are in the pool together but can distance from other pairs.
- Swim lessons and swim team gatherings may resume if they can do so while maintaining social distance, except for life-saving activities, and comply with lap swimming guidance. Shared equipment must be disinfected after each use. Swim teams that would like to use additional pool capacity can submit a plan to [hspcontact@delaware.gov](mailto:hspcontact@delaware.gov).
- Pools may designate times for lap swim if lanes are a minimum of 6 feet wide. During lap swim times or swim team practices, up to four swimmers may use the same lane only if they do not enter, exit or rest within 6 feet of each other. Swimmers from the same household may share the same lane without distancing.



- Must ensure employee health monitoring and documentation for COVID-19.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation inside and outside of the pool from others not within family or party.
- Recommend face covering when not swimming and when unable to maintain 6 feet distancing. Children age 2 years or younger must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Face coverings are strongly recommended but not required for children ages 2-12.
- Bathers should review signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before heading to the pool. They should be advised to not enter the pool area if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Encourage all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash hands often and cover their coughs or sneezes.
- Have hand sanitizers available for employees and guests.
- Post signage instructing employees and swimmers about maintaining 6 feet distance, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Permitted pools must maintain and adhere to all the provisions in the Delaware Public Swimming Pools Regulations.