

Guide to Use of Shared Outdoor Swimming Pools

Beginning June 5, 2020, shared outdoor swimming pools may reopen for use, so long as pool operators and users follow the requirements in the County Health Officer's [Shelter in Place Order](#), including the provisions in [Appendix C-1](#) concerning swimming pools, as well as applicable laws and permitting requirements. Operation and use of shared outdoor swimming pools must also comply with the measures in this Guide.

General Rules

- All outdoor shared (i.e. public) swimming pools (including hot tubs and wading pools) are allowed to operate, in accordance with these requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, outdoor swimming pools that are part of community centers, athletic clubs, multi-unit residential complexes, membership organizations, and schools.
- All indoor swimming pools/hot tubs must remain closed at this time (except for pools that are part of a health care operation and personal household pools).
- For all outdoor pools that are opening, the facility operator must complete and implement a Social Distancing Protocol and distribute a copy to all staff, using the template in [Appendix A](#) to the Health Officer Order (as updated on May 22, 2020). The operator must also post signage required by the [Social Distancing Protocol](#), including a COVID-19 PREPARED Sign and Visitor Information Sheet.
- Face coverings must be worn by pool staff and all pool users except when swimming. Face coverings are not required for children aged 6 and younger, those for whom face coverings are medically inadvisable, and others exempt from the face covering requirements pursuant to the Health Officer's [Critical Guidance on Facial Coverings](#).

Measures to Maintain Social Distance

- Lap swimming must be limited to one swimmer per lane, except that members of the same household or living unit may occupy a single lane.
- Use of shared swimming areas must be limited to no more than one swimmer per 300 square feet of shared pool space (unless **all** swimmers in the shared space are from the same household/living unit). Calculate the total square footage of shared pool space and divide by 300 to determine the maximum number of swimmers allowed in that area.
 - Example: If a swimming pool has 1500 square feet of shared pool space, it may have a maximum of 5 swimmers in the shared pool space at one time, unless **all** swimmers are from the same household (in which case there is no limit). But if 3 members of one household are in the shared pool space, the normal space limits still apply, and only 2 additional swimmers are allowed in the shared pool space.
- Swimmers must remain at least six feet apart at all times from anyone who is not part of their household or living unit (except for emergencies).

Measures to Maintain Social Distance (Continued)

- Prohibit all gathering outside the pool, such as on pool decks, except that members of a household may observe a child or other person swimming to ensure safety and supervision.
- Limit hot tubs and small wading pools under 300 square feet to use by one household/living unit at a time.
- Post signage informing swimmers of these requirements.

Oversight of Rules

- All pools except unstaffed residential pools must have at least one person (separate from lifeguards) on duty at all times to ensure that the facility's social distancing protocol and all measures in this Guide are followed.
- For unstaffed pools that are part of a multi-unit residential facility, create a sign-up/reservation system to stagger use by separate households/living units and ensure that measures to maintain social distance are maintained.

Measures to Prevent Unnecessary Contact

- Except if part of a children's program (see below), swim lessons are limited to one instructor and one household at a time, and instructors must maintain six-foot social distance from swimmers, except for emergencies. Lessons are not allowed if they require physical contact.
- Remove or prohibit use of tables, chair, loungers, and other furniture that can encourage poolside gathering.
- Locker rooms and other indoor spaces must be closed to the public, except for restrooms.
- No sharing of towels or pool equipment with pool users from different households.

Measures to Increase Hygiene and Sanitization

- Provide hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or higher) at each facility entrance and at other appropriate locations for use by staff and pool users, including at locations with frequent interaction between staff and the public (like at check-in counters).
- Provide adequate soap and water, paper towels and hand sanitizer (60% alcohol or higher) at all restrooms.
- Staff must wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, including: after using the restroom, after coughing/sneezing/smoking/eating, after cleaning or disinfecting equipment or touching items others have used (i.e. kick boards, pool noodles, handrails), and before putting on gloves.
- Regularly disinfect all high-touch surfaces exposed to staff or pool users.

Pool Sanitation and Safety Reopening Check

Conduct a pool sanitation and safety check on reopening to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection, and the pool has been evaluated for safety, including:

- Suction outlets are present and not loose, broken, or damaged.
- A Safety Vacuum Release System is present, if applicable, and in good working order.
- Pool lights are secure, flush to the wall, and devoid of any water within the light assembly.
- Spa Emergency Shut-off Switch is present and capable of turning off power to all spa pumps.
- Spa water temperature is 104 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- All gates and doors are self-closing and self-latching.
- Pool enclosure (fence and gate/doors) is secure and there are no openings, holes or gaps that allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere.

Significant changes in operation or equipment require review by the Department of Environmental Health. Contact the Department of Environmental Health for more information at: www.EHinfo.org, DEHWEB@cep.sccgov.org, or (408) 918-3400.

Special Consideration for Children's Programs

Use of pools for children's summer camps and recreational programs must comply with the [Guidance for Summer Camps, Summer Schools Programs, and Other Children's Activities](#):

- Children must be in stable groups of 12 or fewer. Children and providers within these groups may physically interact, gather, and use shared equipment.
- Children may not change from one group to another, and groups may not interact with each other. Equipment must be sanitized before use by another group.
- Instructors and providers must work with only one group of children for the duration of the program.
- Children may not move from one program to another more often than every 3 weeks or participate in more than one program simultaneously.