



COVID-19 Guidance for Public and Private Community Swimming Pools

1. The pool must have a **written plan** documenting plans and procedures to help protect staff and swimmers, both in and out of the water, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. This must be available upon request from the Division of Public Health (DPH) either remotely or during on-site inspection.
 - Develop a plan on isolating and, if needed, arranging transportation for the person sick with COVID-19 symptoms, cleaning and then disinfecting areas used by the sick person, and notifying DPH and close contacts.
 - pH and disinfectant residual shall be measured every one (1) hour in order to ensure proper disinfection level.
 - Lifeguards, pool staff, or others tasked by the facility with enforcing COVID-19 guidance must be on pool deck during all operating hours.
 - Designate a staff member to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. All staff and swimmers should know who this person is and how to contact him or her.
 - Encourage all staff, guests, and swimmers to wash hands often (with soap and water for at least 20 seconds) and cover their coughs or sneezes. Have hand sanitizers (that contain at least 60% alcohol) available for staff, guests, and swimmers.
 - Increase ventilation, intake of outdoor air and exhaust of indoor air, to reduce the concentration of virus particles in indoor air.
 - Provide adequate supplies in support of preventing the spread of COVID-19. Supplies include face coverings, soap and water, paper towels, tissues, and hand sanitizers.
 - Must ensure employee health monitoring and documentation for COVID-19.
2. Lower pool (**deck area and water**) occupancy to reduce crowding and to maintain 6 feet separation in and out of pool:
 - **Indoor pool** – total not to exceed **50%** of fire occupancy capacity
 - **Outdoor pool** – **50%** of state fire occupancy requirements for outdoor space over one hundred thousand square feet (**100,000 sq. ft.**) and **75%** of state fire occupancy requirements for any outdoor space of one hundred thousand square feet (**100,000 sq. ft.**) or less.
 - Area must be fenced or closed to allow monitoring of number of guests at entry/exit points
 - Total capacity is calculated based on 30 square feet per person.
Example: **Sq ft of Pool (1,000) / 30 Sq ft = 33 total people allowed**
3. **Private Community Pools (approved by the state)** 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 fifty percent (50%).



4. **Group Events**

- 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.
- Pools may designate times for lap swim if lanes are a minimum of six (6) feet wide. During lap swim times or swim team practices, up to **six (6)** swimmers may use the same lane only if they do not enter, exit or rest within six (6) feet of each other. Swimmers from the same household may share the same lane without distancing.

5. **Social Distancing/Screening and Education**

- Maintain at least six (6) feet separation inside and outside of the pool from others not within the same household. Exceptions to social distancing shall be made to:
 - Rescue a distressed swimmer, perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), provide first aid or aquatic training; or
 - Evacuate the water or aquatic facility due to an emergency.
- Swimmers 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.
- Post signage instructing staff and swimmers about face covering, maintaining six (6) feet distance, hand washing, and to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

6. **Face Covering** is required when not swimming and when unable to maintain six (6) feet distancing at an outdoor pool. 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 below Kindergarten.

7. **Permitted Pools** must maintain and adhere to all the provisions in the Delaware Public Swimming Pools Regulation.

Contact your county field office or email questions to:

HSPContact@delaware.gov