

Aquatic facilities In Phase Two

VDH Guidance for Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Other Aquatic Facilities; Phase Two

Scope: Swimming Pools, Spas, Hot Tubs, and Other Treated Recreational Waters

Businesses must strictly adhere to the physical distancing guidelines, enhanced cleaning and disinfection practices, and enhanced workplace safety practices provided in the “Guidelines for All Business Sectors” document as well as any restrictions for Exercise Facilities prescribed in Executive Order 65.

- Phase Two allows indoor and outdoor pools to open. Activities allowed include lap swimming with 3 swimmers per lane, diving, and exercise classes with participants spaced 10' from each other. All participants in pool activity must be 10' from other participants to the greatest extent possible, and 10' from other patrons not of their household while on deck. Incidental passing of swimmers sharing lanes is acceptable.
- Hot tubs, spas, splash pads, spray pools, interactive play features, saunas, and all water play areas are to remain closed.
- Recreational swimming (as opposed to exercise; free swim) is not allowed.
- Pools can not be opened for activities other than lap swimming, swim instruction, diving, or other exercise (aquarobics, facilitated fun with stationary participants observing physical distancing). Swim instruction participants must maintain 10' distancing from other participants.
- Seating in pool areas may open with 10' of physical distancing between seating groups. Patrons may sit around the pool (i.e. all patrons are not required to participate in swimming activities).
- Facilities should screen patrons for COVID-19 symptoms prior to admission to the facility. Patrons should be asked if they are currently experiencing fever (100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher) or a sense of having a fever, a new cough that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new shortness of breath that cannot be attributed to another health condition, new chills that cannot be attributed to another health condition, a new sore throat that cannot be attributed to another health condition, or new muscle aches that cannot be attributed to another health condition or specific activity (such as physical exercise). Anyone experiencing symptoms should not be permitted in the facility. Screenings should be conducted in accordance with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws and regulations.

Facilities are encouraged to designate a person-in charge to monitor all activities occurring in or around the swimming facility. On-duty lifeguards should not be cleaning, stocking supplies or monitoring physical distancing and maximum capacity parameters. While on duty as a lifeguard, these individuals must be assigned 100% to lifeguard duties.

Require employees to wear face coverings over their nose and mouth; refer to CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings guidance. Lifeguards responding to distressed swimmers are exempt from this requirement. If six feet of physical distance is not possible in a given business setting, employers must provide face covering to employees, utilizing the aforementioned CDC Use of Cloth Face Coverings guidance.

If heat exhaustion is a concern for lifeguards, facilities are encouraged to create barriers between lifeguard stands and patrons to ensure at least 10' of spacing between the lifeguard and all patrons to allow them to remove their mask for heat-related health reasons.

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Exercise increases exhalation and the force of exhalation, so physical distancing of 10' between those exercising or recovering from exercise is required. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Clean and disinfect all common use and frequently touched surfaces regularly (recommended every 2 hours), including surfaces in locker rooms, decks, ladder railings, diving boards, and railings. Any common furniture equipment (chairs) must be disinfected after each use. Clean these areas first with soap and water; then, disinfect with an approved chemical. There is a list of EPA-registered "disinfectant" products for COVID-19 (on this [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#) link) that have qualified under EPA's emerging viral pathogen program for use against SARS-CoV-2, which is the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.