

Protocols for Reopening of Public Swimming Pools

Recent Updates: (Changes highlighted yellow)

2/17/21:

- Outdoor pools may be open for routine use provided that all employees and pool users maintain a physical distance of six feet from non-household members and that employees and pool users wear a face mask when not in the pool.
- Indoor pools may be open for drowning prevention classes and aquatic therapy (hydrotherapy, pool therapy) sessions only.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Public Health) is calling on the public, all business owners, community organizations and residents to support the safe reopening of businesses, recreational activities, and public spaces. In addition to the requirements in this Protocol, the Youth and Adult Recreational Sports protocol that pertain to swimming can be found at the following link: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening_SportsLeagues.pdf. Public swimming pools include campground pools, club pools, commercial pools, health or fitness clubs, hotel pools, licensed day care 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.

Outdoor pools are allowed to be open for routine use, in addition to drowning prevention classes, including swim lessons with certified instructors, and aquatic therapy (hydrotherapy, pool therapy) sessions.

Indoor pools are allowed to be open only for drowning prevention classes, including swim lessons with certified instructors, and aquatic therapy (hydrotherapy, pool therapy) sessions only.

Water slides, rides or other water attractions at the pool are to be kept closed.

In the protocols that follow, the term “household” is defined as “persons living together as a single living unit” and shall not include institutional group living situations such as dormitories, fraternities, sororities, monasteries, convents, or residential care facilities, nor does it include such commercial living arrangements such as boarding houses, hotels, or motels.¹ The terms “staff” and “employee” are meant to include employees, volunteers, interns and trainees, scholars and all other individuals who carry out work at the site. The term “visitors” or “customers” should be understood to include members of the public and others who are not staff or employees who spend time at the business or site. The terms “establishment”, “site”, and “facility” both refer to the building, grounds, and any adjacent buildings or grounds at which permitted activities are conducted.

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.

¹ 1 Los Angeles County Code, Title 22. §22.14.060 - F. Family definition. (Ord. 2019-0004 § 1, 2019.)

https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV2DE_CH22.14DE_22.14.060F.

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 [or online via www.redcap.link/covidreport](http://www.redcap.link/covidreport). 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.
- Entry screening is conducted, in compliance with the LACDPH [Employee Screening guidance](#), before participants, coaches, and support staff may enter the site and participate in activities. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and if the employee is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. 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 may not enter the premises.](#)
 - If the person has no symptoms, is not currently under isolation and quarantine orders, and no contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, they can be cleared to participate for that day.
 - If the person has had contact to a known or suspected COVID-19 case in the last 10 days or is currently under quarantine orders, they [may not enter and participate and](#) must be sent home immediately to quarantine at home. Provide them with the quarantine instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidquarantine.
 - If the person is showing any of the symptoms noted above or is currently under isolation orders, they [may not enter and participate and](#) must be sent home immediately to isolate at home. Provide them with the isolation instructions found at ph.lacounty.gov/covidisolation.
- Employees who have contact with others are offered, at no cost, an appropriate [mask](#) that covers the nose and mouth. The [mask must](#) 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 [mask must](#) 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 [must](#) not be used.
- All employees must wear [face masks](#) at all times except when working alone in private offices with closed doors or when eating or drinking. The exception made previously for employees working in cubicles with solid partitions exceeding the height of the employee while standing is overridden.
- To ensure that masks are worn consistently and correctly, employees are discouraged from eating or drinking except during their breaks when they are able to safely remove their masks and physically distance from others. At all times when eating or drinking, employees must maintain at least a six-foot distance from others. When eating or drinking, it is preferred to do so outdoors and away from others, if possible. Eating or drinking at a cubicle or workstation is preferred to eating in a breakroom if eating in a cubicle or workstation provides greater distance from and barriers between workers.
- Occupancy is reduced and space between employees is maximized in any room or area used employees for meals and/or breaks. This has been achieved by:
 - Posting a maximum occupancy that is consistent with enabling a distance of at least six feet between individuals in rooms or areas used for breaks;
 - Staggering break or mealtimes to reduce occupancy in rooms or areas used for meals and breaks; and
 - Placing tables [eight](#) feet apart and assuring six feet between seats, removing or taping seats to reduce occupancy, placing markings on floors to assure distancing, and arranging seating in a way

that minimizes face-to-face contact. Use of partitions is encouraged to further prevent spread but should not be considered a substitute for reducing occupancy and maintaining physical distancing.

- Employees are instructed to wash or replace their face **mask** daily.
- Employees need not wear a **face mask** when entering the water.
- Lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of face **masks**, or social distancing of others.
 - Designate another employee to monitor implementation of **physical** distancing protocols. All employees should know who this person is and how to contact that person.
- 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

- Outdoor pools may be open for routine use. Use of the pool facility must be limited to a maximum of 50% of pool user capacity and pool users must maintain 6 feet physical distance from those who do not live with them.
 - **Maximum permitted** pool user capacity: _____ **User capacity at 50% of Max:** _____
 - Consider implementing reservations for pool use. This could include reserving lanes for individual lap swimming.
 - 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.
- Employees may continue to access indoor areas of the pool facility to use the restroom or take breaks, to conduct essential office operations and to move supplies and materials in and out of the building each day.
- Pool users may not enter the indoor areas of the pool facility at any time or for any reason, except:
 - To individually use an indoor restroom;
 - To participate in a drowning prevention class with a certified instructor provided that the class must be limited to one student at a time or a group small enough to enable physical distancing in the water; or
 - To attend an aquatic therapy class with a certified therapist provided that the class must be limited to one client at a time or a group small enough to enable physical distancing in the water.
- Patrons waiting to use the indoor restroom must wait outside until the restroom is not occupied. Employees must monitor the indoor area of the pool complex to limit restroom capacity and ensure physical distancing among patrons who are in line to use the indoor restroom.
- Use of showers, changing rooms, and lockers is not permitted.

- Private lessons or therapy sessions are allowed using proper physical distancing techniques. Both the student and instructor or therapist are required to wear face masks at all times when they are not in the water.
- Group lessons are permitted, provided that class size is limited to ensure a minimum of six feet of physical distance between participants during all activities. Both the instructor and all participants must wear a face mask at all times when they are not in the water.
- 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.
- Designate a person or persons that is/are responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the 50% maximum number of pool users as set forth above is not exceeded. The designated person(s) is/are also responsible for ensuring that these protocols are adhered to on a daily basis.
- Measures to ensure physical 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.
- Inter-team competitions, defined as a competition between two teams only, are permitted in compliance with the LACDPH Protocol for Youth and Adult Recreational Sports. A team is defined as a group of players forming one side in a competitive game or sport.
- Prohibit parties or gatherings in all common areas including the pool.

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Visitors arriving at the pool are reminded to wear a face mask at all times (except while 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. Persons who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face mask must 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 must not be used. -To support the safety of your employees and other visitors, a face mask should be made available to visitors who arrive without them.
- Entry Screenings are conducted before visitors enter the site and participate in activities, as described above. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills and whether the individual is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. 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 or who are currently under isolation or quarantine may 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 hourly, 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 _____
 - 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 or they are currently under isolation or quarantine.

- Maintain **physical** 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 **mask** when traveling through common areas of the facility, including to and from the pool and in shared restrooms. Remind swimmers to remove **their** face **mask** 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.