



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

P.O. BOX 129261, SAN DIEGO, CA 92112-9261
Phone: (858) 505-6900 | 1 (800) 253-9933 | FAX: (858) 505-6998 | www.sdcdeh.org



Public Swimming Pool Operations During COVID-19 Guidance

For swimming pool facilities to safely reopen, and maintain social distancing and operational best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, utilize the following guidance:

Disinfection Plan and Oversight

- Complete and post the County of San Diego's required [Safe Reopening Plan \(Plan\)](#). In the Plan, describe how the measures in this guidance document will be met. The plan must be posted onsite at the facility, it does not need to be submitted to the County.
- Designate a person to be responsible for evaluating and implementing the measures in the Plan and in this guidance document. Determine who will ensure that the measures are being followed.
 - For an HOA, the designated person responsible for the pool/pool area is typically the HOA Manager or an HOA board member.
- Designate a person to be responsible for monitoring the restroom or changing rooms to ensure that the facilities are stocked with soap, paper towels, and has running water.
- Increase the frequency of restroom and changing room cleaning and disinfection based on the volume of pool/pool area use.
- Restrooms and showers must remain open to allow access by pool/pool area users and should be frequently disinfected.

Disinfection Requirements

- Frequently disinfect common touch points, such as chairs, tables, entry/exit gate and door handles, pool and spa handrails, restroom facilities, shower water faucet handles, changing room benches and lockers, pool kickboards and floatation devices, slides, structures for climbing or playing, and any other common touch points, using a disinfectant that is [EPA approved](#) and effective against Coronavirus. If pool facilities are in continuous use, hourly disinfection is recommended. For less frequently used pool facilities, disinfection between users is recommended.
- At locations with no onsite person to monitor disinfection efforts, provide disinfection wipes that the pool/pool area users can use to disinfect common touchpoints before and after use.

Limit Users

- Ensure proper social distancing is maintained by all pool and spa users that are not part of the same household. Limit the number of persons on the pool deck and in the pool/spa to ensure six feet of social distancing is always maintained.
- Changing rooms and restrooms should be monitored to ensure that the number of people inside at one time allows for proper social distancing. Changing rooms (not restrooms) may need to be closed or have limited access to achieve proper social distancing.
- For locations that do not have an onsite person designated to monitor the pool/pool area users (such as HOA/apartments/condominium pools), a system should be in place to help ensure the number of persons in the pool area does not exceed the gathering limitation (ex. reservation system, sign-up board, or signage with new limited capacity).

Public Swimming Pool Operations During COVID-19 Guidance cont'd

Social Distancing

- All chairs and tables must be set up to maintain 6 foot social distancing. Remove, store, or label unused tables and chairs to prevent use. Each facility must ensure that the spacing of the chairs and tables still provides a clear deck space of 4 feet around the pool and/or spa, as required by State law.

General Requirements

- Facilities may allow the use of spray grounds and water features, if proper social distancing can be maintained by all users that are not part of the same household. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or monitored, then these features should be prohibited from use.
- Use of indoor pools and spas can be used if indoor ventilation systems are operating properly. In addition to the ventilation system, increasing the introduction and circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors is recommended as long as this does not pose a safety risk to children, staff, or pool/pool area users.
- Drinking fountains should be covered to prevent usage. Individuals can bring their own water in a non-glass container if beverages are allowed in pool/spa area.
- Limit spa use to one household at a time or ensure social distancing of 6 feet is met.
- When feasible, it is recommended that swim instructors teach from the pool deck. For those classes that require face-to-face or close contact, use a parent or member of the same household to be in the water with the child or have the swim instructor wear a face covering. Participants of group swimming lessons and spectators on the pool deck should always maintain social distancing of six feet.

Resources

Information regarding COVID-19: www.coronavirus-sd.com.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Swimming Pool Guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>.

For questions regarding public swimming pool operations, please contact DEH at (858) 505-6900 or via email at fhduyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov.