

COVID-19 Guidance for Public Swimming Pools and Spas

Background

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

Pools may be opened. **Spas shall remain closed.**

Requirements:

Proper pool chemistry and maintenance are essential to preventing the spread on COVID-19 in the pool water and surrounding area. Ensuring social distancing will also be a key factor in preventing the spread on COVID-19.

- Check the pool chlorine level and pH level **everyday** – write down the results in a daily log. A daily log template can be found attached to this guidance.
- Maintain proper chlorine and pH levels at all times.

	Free Chlorine Level Min/ Max		pH	*Cyanuric Acid (CYA)
	No Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used	Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used (tablet feeders)		
Pools	1 - 10 ppm Cl	2 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max
Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds	3 - 10 ppm Cl	3 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max

If the pool does not have the proper amount of chlorine, the water is unsafe and may result in the spread of COVID-19 as well as other viruses and bacteria.

- If the pool does not meet the requirements for sanitizer, you must close the pool until the chemistry is adjusted to the proper range.
- Spas shall remain closed. Spas may be barricaded, have signage and/or be drained to prevent use. If the spa is not drained, the water must still be maintained clean/clear so that the bottom drains are easily visible at all times.
- The owner/operator of each pool/spa facility should complete the attached “Swimming Pool Disinfection Protocol”. The completed protocol should be maintained on site and available for review.

Responsible Party

The pool owner is responsible for the health and safety of the pool and spa. The pool service company is not the responsible party. If the pool cannot be tested daily and the pool area cannot be supervised to ensure social distancing, consider keeping the pool closed for the 2020 season.

Inspections

Specialists with the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) will be conducting inspections at public pools starting July 1. Please contact EMD with any questions.



Sacramento County Swimming Pool Disinfection Protocol

This protocol shall be completed for every public pool facility located in Sacramento County. Keep a copy of the completed protocol on site and available for review.

Facility Name:			
Facility Address:			
Facility Contact Person:		Phone #:	
Pool Service Name:		Phone #:	

Signage – samples

- Signage must be posted at each public entrance of the pool enclosure to inform all entering that they should:
- Avoid entering the enclosure if they have a cough or fever; wear facial coverings when not actively in the water;
 - Maintain a minimum 6 ft. distance from one another; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.

Disinfection Protocol and Oversight

- Designate a person to be responsible for completing the “Swimming Pool Disinfection Protocol” (this document) and ensuring that the protocol is being followed. For an HOA this should be the person responsible for the pool/pool area and who is a point of contact for pool inspections (not the pool service).

Name:

- Restrooms and showers must remain open to pool/pool area users. Designate a person to be responsible for monitoring any restroom or changing facilities to ensure that facilities are properly stocked with soap, paper towels, and running water.

Name:

Disinfection of Pool Water, Pool Area and Ancillary Facilities

- Measure the chlorine and pH level in the pool every day. Use a DPD chlorine test kit to check for free chlorine level. If the pool does not have enough chlorine or the pH isn't in the proper range, close the pool until the chemistry can be adjusted to the proper amount.

Pool will be tested on the following schedule:

Day	Time	Person
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

- If pool facilities are in continuous use, hourly disinfection of the areas listed below is recommended. For less frequently used pool facilities, disinfection between users is recommended. Disinfection will occur on the following schedule:

Name/Title of person performing disinfection:
Disinfection schedule
Entry/exit gate and door handles:
Pool handrails:
Restroom facilities:
Shower handles:
Changing room benches and lockers:
Other common touch points:

Please Note: Frequency of restroom and changing room disinfection should be increased if the volume of pool/pool area use increases.

Deck Furniture - Disinfection and Social Distancing Requirements

- Set up a system so that deck furniture is cleaned and disinfected after each use. If deck furniture cannot be monitored/cleaned/disinfected, consider removing, storing, or labeling tables and chairs to prevent use.
- All chairs and tables must be set up to maintain 6 ft. social distancing. Remove, store, or label excess tables and chairs to prevent use. Ensure that the spacing of the chairs and tables still provides a clear deck space of 4-feet around the pool.
- Eliminate access to drinking fountains. Post signs or turn off water to drinking fountains.

Limit Guests and Pool Users

- Limit the number of persons in the pool area to an amount where 6 ft. social distancing can be easily maintained.
- For locations that do not have an onsite person designated to monitor the pool/pool area users (such as pools at HOA and apartment complexes), a system should be in place to limit the number of persons in the pool area (ex. reservation system or sign-up board) and limit the use of the pool/pool area to residents only.
- Avoid hosting activities that promote group (cohort) gatherings greater than 10, where people from unrelated households will not be able to maintain 6 ft. social distancing.

Example: A cohort is a group of people engaged in some common purpose.

Additional Guidance for Aquatics Classes, Swim Teams, Aquatic Facilities

Group classes and events may be held as long as 6 ft. social distancing can be maintained while in and out of the water.

Please Note: The group size (cohort) for swim teams varies depending on the square footage of the pool deck. Typically for swim teams, 220 lineal feet of available pool deck space for chairs,

would equal to about 25 swim team members. The best way to execute this is to designate blocks of pool time available for swim teams to visit the pool each day.

- Provide physical cues, visual cues, and signs to ensure that staff, patrons, and swimmers stay at least six feet apart from one another, both in and out of the water. (e.g., lane lines/ropes in the water, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks)
- Consider implementing reservations for pool use or implementing other mechanisms to support physical distancing. This could include reserving full-lanes for individual lap swimming and half-lanes for individual household use.
- Encourage patrons to bring and use their own towels wherever possible. If the facility is providing them, launder towels according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely. Handle towels with disposable gloves and minimal disturbance, i.e., do not shake them.
- Discourage people 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 patrons, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, to minimize sharing wherever possible. Clean and disinfect the items after each use.
- For indoor aquatic venues, introduce and circulate outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, patrons, or swimmers.
- Where feasible, install impermeable physical barriers such as Plexiglas where staff and patrons must interact and physical distancing is difficult.
- Ensure that lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or physical distancing. Assign this monitoring responsibility to another staff member.
- When feasible, it is recommended that swim lesson and group activity instructors teach from the pool deck. For those swim 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 and work with the student in a one-on-one capacity. Participants of group swimming lessons, group fitness classes, and spectators on the pool deck should always maintain social distancing of six feet.

Prepared by:	
Title:	
Date:	

Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Swimming Pool Guidance](#)

[State Guidelines for Fitness Facilities](#)

[Swimming World](#)

POOL/SPA DAILY MAINTENANCE LOG

Facility Name:			Minimum Turnover Rate (GPM):		
Facility Address:			Month/Year:		
Date	Chlorine residual (free chlorine)	pH	Chemicals Added (type and amount)	Temp (°F) <small>(104°F max)</small>	Other Maintenance (backwash etc.)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					
26					
27					
28					
29					
30					
31					
Monthly cyanuric acid test results: _____ ppm. Date: _____					

	Free Chlorine Level Min/ Max		pH	*Cyanuric Acid (CYA)
	No Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used	Cyanuric acid/stabilizer used (tablet feeders)		
Pools	1 - 10 ppm Cl	2 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max
Spas, Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds	3 - 10 ppm Cl	3 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max

If using bromine instead of chlorine: Pools: 2.0 ppm min., Spas, wading pools, spray grounds: 4.0 ppm min.

FOLLOW THESE 5 SAFETY STEPS

to keep us all healthy

1

STAY HOME IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL

Or if you tested positive for COVID-19 or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days



2

STAY 6 FEET AWAY FROM PEOPLE

who don't live with you, both in and out of the water and avoid sharing items with other people



3

WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVERING

when not in the water*

* Don't place cloth face coverings on children under age 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, weak, or otherwise unable to remove the cover without help.



4

WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol



5

COVER YOUR COUGHS AND SNEEZES

with a tissue or your elbow, throw the tissue in the trash, and wash your hands



Now, **let's swim!**



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

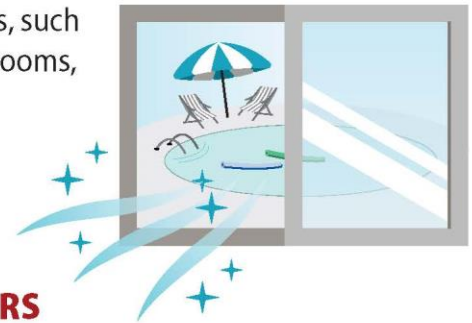
cdc.gov/coronavirus
Sacramento County Environmental Management
Department: emd.saccounty.net

DAILY CHECKLIST FOR STAFF

Public pools, and water playgrounds



- Remind staff, patrons, and swimmers to **WASH THEIR HANDS OFTEN** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- ENCOURAGE WEARING CLOTH FACE COVERINGS** for staff and patrons **2 years and over** who are not swimming
- MAKE SURE THERE ARE ENOUGH SUPPLIES**, such as soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans
- CLEAN AND DISINFECT** frequently touched surfaces, such as tables, lounge chairs, pool noodles, door handles, restrooms, and other equipment
- INCREASE VENTILATION** in any indoor areas by opening windows and doors
- ENCOURAGE STAFF, PATRONS, AND SWIMMERS** to stay home if they do not feel well, tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- POST SIGNS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY BEHAVIORS** that prevent COVID-19, make announcements on PA systems, and include messages in e-mails, on websites, and social media
- MODIFY LAYOUTS AND ARRANGEMENTS** of chairs, tables, and entry/exit areas to keep people who do not live together 6 feet apart



Now, **let's swim!**



SACRAMENTO COUNTY

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)
Sacramento County Environmental Management
Department: emd.saccounty.net