



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

# 2020 SWIMMING POOL/SPA NEWSLETTER

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EMD.saccounty.net



## Pools, Spas and COVID-19

**Will Pools and Spas be open this summer?** Pool owners/operators may open their pools if the COVID-19 guidelines are followed. → **Spas must be kept closed** ← See attached guidelines.

**Will the Pools and Spas be inspected this year?** Yes. Pools and spas will be inspected whether they are open or closed. Specialists will conduct modified inspections focusing on pool safety, sanitation and COVID-19 protocol compliance. Specialists will maintain 6 ft. social distancing while conducting inspections and will email inspection reports once they are completed. Update your email and contact information by calling the Environmental Management Department (EMD) at (916) 875-8440.

### **How do I know what guidelines to follow?**

The “Sacramento County - COVID-19 Guidance for Public Swimming Pools and Spas” is attached to this newsletter. Review and complete these guidelines. Keep a copy on site. If you have questions, please contact your Specialist or EMD at (916) 875-8440.



**If this cover was installed before 2015, it is expired!**

## ATTENTION!

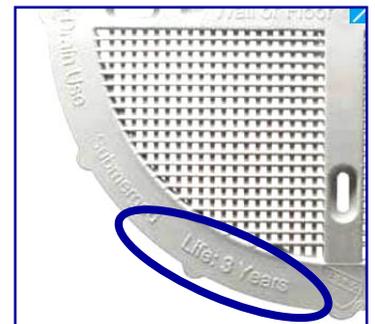
### EXPIRED SUCTION COVERS MUST BE REPLACED

During routine inspections conducted in 2020, expired suction covers will be documented on the inspection report. If you receive this notice on your inspection report, your suction covers need to be replaced. Please see page 2 of this newsletter for more information about suction cover requirements.

**In 2021, expired suction covers will be documented as a major violation and may result in pool/spa closure.**

### Why do suction covers have a lifespan?

Suction covers used in pools and spas are made of materials that can degrade over time from exposure to water, chemicals and sunlight. Due to these factors, the Consumer Product Safety Commission requires manufacturers to mark their covers with the number of years it can be used safely under normal conditions. The lifespan is stamped on the cover and ranges from 3-7 years depending on the manufacturer and model number. See page 2 for directions on how to find out if the covers in your pool are expired.



## How to Identify Expired Suction Covers

When new suction covers are installed, an AB 1020 Compliance Form must be submitted to Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD) plan review. This form states the make and model of the covers as well as the date they were installed. Copies of this form were provided to the contractor by EMD upon approval.

- **FIRST:** Find out the date your covers were installed (it may be noted on your last inspection report)
  - Find previous inspection reports at: <https://emdingspections.saccounty.net/pool.aspx>
  - Check your records or contact the contractor who installed the covers to obtain a copy of your AB 1020 Compliance Form. If the contractor is unable to provide the form, contact your EMD pool Specialist.
- **SECOND:** Look up the lifespan of your suction covers on the manufacturer's website.
- **THIRD:** Count the number of years since it was installed and see if it has exceeded its lifespan.

## **Only a LICENSED CONTRACTOR may replace suction covers**

The Contactor must have one of the following licenses: (C53, C36, C61, D35)



Replacing with the same make and model #:

Contractor must submit a new AB 1020 Compliance Form to EMD Plan Review. *ph (916) 874-6010*

Replacing with a different make and model #:

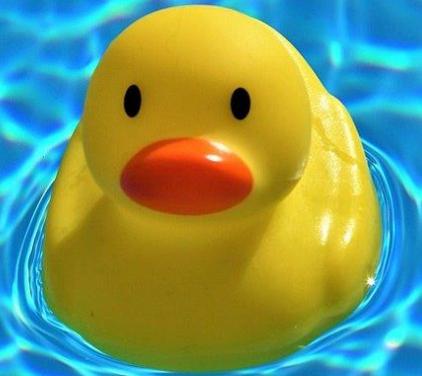
Contractor must submit an Application for Minor Remodel to EMD Plan Review prior to starting any work. Once the application is approved and the work is complete, the contractor must submit a new AB1020 Compliance Form to EMD within 30 days

**\*\*\*\* It is the pool operator's responsibility to ensure that the contractor complies with these requirements \*\*\*\***

### **EMD Plan Review Reminder**

If you are changing your pump, filter, chlorinator, SVRS, drain covers, plumbing, or planning to resurface your pool – please call EMD first to find out about plan review requirements.

**(916) 874-6010**



## Updates and Information

**Swimming Pool Workshop** – The 2020 Pool/Spa Workshops have been cancelled due to COVID-19. A PowerPoint presentation from the workshop is available on the EMD website. [emd.saccounty.net/EH/Pages/RecHealth](http://emd.saccounty.net/EH/Pages/RecHealth)

**California State Pool Code** – The codes that apply to public pools can be found through a link on the EMD website at [emd.saccounty.net/EH/Pages/RecHealth](http://emd.saccounty.net/EH/Pages/RecHealth)

**New Management?** – If your facility has changed management companies, please let us know! A new permit is required for all ownership changes. Help keep our records current and call us at (916) 875-8440 when your facility's contact information changes.

**EMD Payments Online** – You can use your credit card to pay health permit fees from your business or your home. Log on at: [emdpayments.saccounty.net](http://emdpayments.saccounty.net)

## 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		
<b>Pools</b>	1 - 10 ppm Cl	2 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max
<b>Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds</b>	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.

<b>Facility Name:</b>			
<b>Facility Address:</b>			
<b>Facility Contact Person:</b>		<b>Phone #:</b>	
<b>Pool Service Name:</b>		<b>Phone #:</b>	

## 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, frequent 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:
<b>Disinfection schedule</b>
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 gatherings greater than 10, where people from unrelated households will not be able to maintain 6 ft. social distancing. (A face covering must be worn whenever 6 ft. of social distancing cannot be maintained.)

### **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. When the group is assembled on deck, face coverings must be worn.

**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).
- Encourage patrons to bring their own equipment, rather than using shared equipment.
- If the facility is supplying equipment, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, ensure that there is enough equipment so that patrons do not share the same items in a class. Clean and disinfect the items after each use. (Chlorinated pool water is not adequate for disinfection of multi-use items/surfaces)  
**Please note: For high touch surfaces where chlorine bleach may be used, the CDC recommends mixing 1/3 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented bleach or "no-splash" bleach.**
- 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.
- Lifeguards must wear a face covering whenever they are not immediately prepared to enter the pool and make a rescue.
- 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](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html)**

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

### **[California State Guidelines for Fitness Facilities](https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf)** – (aquatics guidance found here)

<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-fitness.pdf>

## 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					
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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)		
<b>Pools</b>	1 - 10 ppm Cl	2 - 10 ppm Cl	7.2- 7.8	100 ppm max
<b>Spas, Wading Pools, and Spray Grounds</b>	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](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)  
Sacramento County Environmental Management  
Department: [emd.saccounty.net](https://emd.saccounty.net)

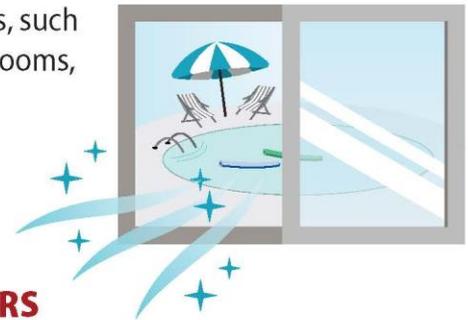


# DAILY CHECKLIST FOR STAFF

## 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)  
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