



## COVID-19 Guidance: Reopening Phase for Public and Community Swimming Pools

Effective on May 22, 2020, the State of Delaware lifted restrictions on public swimming pools regulated by the Division of Public Health (DPH), as well as community pools that operate as private pools by DPH definition, subject to strict social distancing requirements and other restrictions. This guidance was updated on May 28, 2020, and the following requirements are effective, June 1, 2020. Private pools at single-family homes are not covered by this guidance.

### Public Swimming Pools:

- The pool must have a written plan documenting how high touch surfaces will be properly disinfected, a schedule of disinfection, and who is designated to perform the disinfection. This must be available upon request from DPH either remotely or during on-site inspection.
- All high touch surfaces should be disinfected every 15 minutes to two hours with an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#).
  - Swimming pool area – entrance gate, handle, tables, chairs, all pool handrails, including slides, and drinking fountains
  - Restroom and storage area – dressing room, wall lockers, benches, door handles, flush handle, faucets, light switches, and paper towel dispensers
- Lower pool (deck area and water) occupancy to reduce crowding and to maintain 6 feet separation in and out of pool:
  - Indoor Pools – total not to exceed 30% of fire capacity
  - Outdoor pool – 30% total capacity based on square footage of pool area:
    - Area must be fenced or closed to allow monitoring of number of guests at entry and exit points
    - Total capacity is calculated based on 30 square feet per person. Example: 1,000 square-foot pool area divided by 30 square feet per person will allow 33 occupancies.
    - Area that can be used in these calculations is capped at 15,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
    - Usable capacity is currently 30% of total capacity.
- pH and disinfectant residual shall be measured every one (1) hour in order to ensure proper level to inactivate the virus in the water.
- Lifeguards, pool staff or others tasked by the facility with enforcing COVID-19 guidance must be on pool deck during all operating hours.
- Smaller facilities can opt to monitor pool area and chemistry at least twice per day in lieu of staging staff at pool but must also reduce overall pool capacity to less than 10.
- Aquatic classes are permitted if participants can maintain distance and any shared equipment is disinfected after use. This includes Mommy and Me type classes where a parent and child are in the pool together but can distance from other pairs.
- Swim lessons and swim team gatherings may resume if they can do so while maintaining social distance, with the exception of life-saving activities, and comply with lap swimming guidance. Shared equipment must be disinfected after each use.
- Pools may designate times for lap swim if lanes are a minimum of 6 feet wide. During lap swim times, two swimmers may use the same lane only if they do not enter, exit or rest within 6 feet of each other. Two swimmers from the same household may share the same lane without distancing.
- Must ensure employee health monitoring and documentation for COVID-19.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation inside and outside of the pool from others not within family or party.



- Recommend face covering when not swimming and when unable to maintain 6 feet distancing. Children age 2 years or younger must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Face coverings are recommended but not required for children ages 2-12.
- Bathers should review signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before heading to the pool. They should be advised to not enter the pool area if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Encourage all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash hands often and cover their coughs or sneezes.
- Have hand sanitizers available for employees and guests.
- Post signage instructing employees and swimmers about maintaining 6 feet distance, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Permitted pools must maintain and adhere to all the provisions in the Delaware Public Swimming Pools Regulations.