COVID-19 Guidance for Swimming Pools

Can saunas, steam rooms or hot tubs open?
- No. At this time these facilities are not permitted to open.

What guidance is there for disinfectant levels for pools?
- One to ten parts per million free chlorine or 3-8 ppm bromine and pH (7.2-8).

Which disinfectants should be used to clean pools and splash pads?
- Consult with the company or engineer that designed the aquatic venue to decide which disinfectants approved by the EPA are best for the specific venue.

Will the lounge chairs at pools be kept clean?
- All furniture and equipment at aquatic venues must be cleaned thoroughly and routinely.
- All aquatic venues must isolate and clearly identify furniture and equipment (ex: lounge chairs, kickboards, pool skimmers, etc.) that needs to be cleaned and disinfected and insure that it is kept separate from furniture that has already been cleaned and disinfected.
- Containers must be labeled for used equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected.

Should visitors bring their own towels?
- Guests should bring their own towels whenever possible.
- If the facility is providing towels, they must be laundered according to manufacturer instructions. Handle towels with disposable gloves and minimal disturbance (i.e., do not shake them).

Can I use goggles in the pool?
- Yes, but items that come in contact with a person’s face should not be shared (e.g., goggles, nose clips or snorkels, etc.).
- 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).

Can pools still provide kickboards or other flotation devices?
- Yes. Facilities should ensure that they have adequate equipment available to minimize sharing. These items must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.

Can indoor pools open?
- Yes. Indoor pools, should introduce and circulate outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods unless the outside air poses a safety risk for swimmers and guests (e.g., poor air quality).
What is the guidance for physical distancing?

- Facilities in which physical distancing is difficult, should change the layout furniture and traffic patterns to ensure that standing and seating areas, entrances and exits, locker areas, and areas surrounding pools can support physical distancing requirements. This may include removing lounge chairs or taping off areas to discourage use.
- Provide physical and visual cues or guides (e.g., lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on floors or sidewalks, deck tape on decks, etc.) 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.
- Swimmers must ensure at least six feet distance apart from one another, both in and out of the water if they do not live in the same household. Facilities may consider implementing reservations for pool use to support physical distancing.

Will lifeguards be monitoring all safety measures?

- No. Lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of face coverings or physical distancing. A separate monitor should be assigned.

Are pool parties allowed?

- Avoid activities that promote group gatherings of individuals from separate households and be aware of local policies on gathering requirements.

Are swim team practices and meets permitted?

- Swim team practices and swim meets are not permitted at this time. Most organized activities and sports are not permitted to the extent that they require coaches and athletes who are not from the same household or living unit to be in close proximity.

State-Provided Recommendations for Pools can be found within the Industry Gyms and Fitness Centers and found here.