



Responsible RestartOhio

Local and Public Pools and Aquatic Centers



Aquatic Facilities Operators

Mandatory

General Operations

- Review and consult the [CDC guidance](#) for aquatic venues

Communicate clearly:

- Post information throughout the pool and surrounding areas to frequently remind swimmers and visitors to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. These messages should include information about:
 - Staying home if you are sick or do not feel well.
 - Using social distancing and maintaining at least six feet or more between individuals in all areas of the pool and deck whenever possible.
 - No gathering in groups of different households
 - Swimmers should not stand, sit, or otherwise block walkways or any identified narrow passage area.
 - Encourage face covering when entering buildings or interacting in close proximity to other swimmers, practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.

Maintain public restrooms and shower facilities to lower risk of spread of virus.

- Disable, or mark every other or every third locker for non-use to enforce six-foot social distancing requirement. Facilities where lockers are assigned to members are not required to disable lockers but must enforce social distancing requirement.
- Remove any casual seating other than benches by lockers as necessary.
- Ensure there are functional toilets and restroom facilities.
- Clean and disinfect public areas and restrooms every two hours using EPA-registered disinfectants, particularly on high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs and light switches.
- Make sure supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands are fully stocked every time the bathroom is cleaned.
- If towels are provided, they are to be stored in covered, sanitized containers that are clearly delineated clean versus soiled. Appropriate temperatures are to be used when washing and drying towels to ensure sanitation (hot water for washing, ensure they are completely dried). Employees handling towels must wear gloves and face covering.
- Restroom and shower facilities should limit the number of users at any one time based on the facility size current social distancing guidelines. These facilities should be cleaned/sanitized per CDC recommended protocol along with established restroom cleaning schedules.

Recommended Best Practices

General Operations

- Consult with the company or engineer that designed your pool or aquatic venue to decide which [disinfectants, approved, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are best for your site.](#)
- Increase the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers.

Communicate clearly:

- Develop regular communication with customers through a variety of channels (text, emails, social posts, flyers, etc.) to clearly communicate the steps your beach, pool and aquatic center is taking to protect users and stop the spread of COVID-19.
- Develop and update website, send emails to users with additional preventative steps the facility is taking, as well as communicate any changes users should expect to experience.

Maintain public restrooms and shower facilities to lower risk of spread of virus.

- Post a cleaning schedule at each location
- Install touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
- Install touchless sensors on faucets, paper towel, and soap dispensers wherever possible.
- Install and stock toilet seat cover dispensers.

Aquatic Facilities Operators *cont.*

Mandatory

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- Install physical barriers (for example, lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and visual cues (for example, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) and signs to ensure that staff, patrons, and swimmers stay at least six feet apart from those they don't live with, both in and out of the water.
- Discourage or prohibit shared objects including goggles, nose clips, and snorkels.
- In accordance with current orders, close any non-essential areas where people could potentially congregate.
- Any food service must be run in accordance with current orders and guidelines for such establishments, found in Responsible Restart Ohio for Restaurants and Bars.
- Develop and implement a reduced maximum capacity to allow 6-feet of distance between users. The formula for capacity should consider the available deck area as well as the pool surface area, as often one is greater than the other. If water surface area is smaller than deck area, an additional limit of swimmers/pool occupants should be implemented to ensure proper social distancing.
- Develop revised deck layouts in the standing and seating areas so individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart from others.

Follow all appropriate guidance for customer interaction, retail sales, and equipment rentals.

- Install barriers and protective shields where needed to safely distance staff and customers.
- Post a revised occupancy number in retail or rental areas in accordance with any current order to minimize crowding where necessary.
- Mark floors inside buildings for six feet standing areas or one-way traffic.
- Clean and disinfect high-use areas like door handles, keypads, counter tops, etc. after each use or at a minimum of every two hours.
- Disinfect all rental equipment after each use, using EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Arrange any seating areas, tables, chairs, etc. (indoors and out) at safe distances from each other. If safe distances are not achievable, or regular sanitizing of these areas is not possible, barricade or remove seating areas.
- Review and follow all guidance for retail operations as provided in Responsible Restart Ohio for Retail Services.

Maintaining Distance in outdoor spaces

- In areas of concern, mark six-foot spaces on pool deck to help users visualize safe distancing.
- In areas with a lot of cross traffic, direct pedestrian traffic to enter/exit these locations in specific ways or indicate one-way traffic wherever possible.

Employees and contractors:

- Maintain at least six feet physical distance from other employees.
- Businesses must require all employees to wear facial coverings, except for one of the following reasons:
 - Facial coverings in the work setting are prohibited by law or regulation.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of documented industry standards.
 - Facial coverings are not advisable for health reasons.
 - Facial coverings are in violation of the business' documented safety policies.
 - Facial coverings are not required when the employee volunteer works alone in an assigned work area.
 - There is a functional (practical) reason for an employee/volunteer not to wear a facial covering in the workplace.

Recommended Best Practices

Closures, modifications and limitations:

- Facilities may determine if masks are required to enter common spaces.
- Implement a reservation system or a time limit for visitors and swimmers to accommodate the reduction in pool capacity.
- Ensure adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kick boards and pool noodles, to minimize sharing to the extent possible, or limiting use of equipment by one group of users at a time and cleaning and disinfecting between use.

Follow all appropriate guidance for customer interaction, retail sales, and equipment rentals.

- Regularly provide customers with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.
- Where available, use online solutions for reservations, waivers, or payment.
- Install touch-free entry points to buildings where possible.
- Create self-sanitizing stations by making hand sanitizer, soap, and water, or effective disinfectant available to the public at or near the entrance of facilities and at any locations where people have direct interactions and near high-touch surfaces.

Employees and contractors:

- Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wait outside or in non-congested areas practicing social distancing guidelines. Encourage 3rd-party delivery staff to wear face coverings.
- Educate on proper use, disposal, and maintenance of face coverings. Enhance education on proper use of gloves, per code.
- Health checks may include temperature assessments, questionnaires, employee self-checks, screening apps or other tools. Update files with log of "health checks".
- Conduct telephone symptom assessment for employees who were ill and planning to return to work.
- As employee rehiring begins, consider virtual interviewing and on-boarding when possible.

Mandatory

Aquatic Facilities Operators cont.

(Businesses must provide written justification to local health officials, upon request, explaining why an employee is not required to wear a facial covering in the workplace. At minimum, facial coverings (masks) should be cloth/fabric and cover an individual's nose, mouth, and chin.)

- Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick. Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment, including assessing for symptoms,* taking their temperatures, and monitoring for fevers.
- Require employees to stay at home if symptomatic and perform daily symptom assessment requirements before returning to work.
- Company vehicles, equipment, break rooms, bathrooms, and other common areas must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.
- Implement staggered employee entry, working in assigned teams, varied arrival and departure, and staggered breaks to avoid interaction or grouping among staff.
- Require regular handwashing.
- Businesses that offer sports activities and sports leagues must follow General Non-Contact Sports Guidance.

Recommended Best Practices

- Reinforce education per current food safety code about when to wash hands. Post health department handwashing posters at sinks and stations. Set times for periodic handwashing.
- Avoid switching tasks when possible to reduce cross contamination concerns. Increase handwashing if changing tasks is necessary.
- Appoint an employee safety team or point of contact to identify safety concerns; suggest additional safety or sanitizing measures; and make ongoing improvements to your safety plan. Make sure all employees know who is on this team and how to contact them. This team can be responsible for training, developing, and distributing information regarding updated protocols, answering questions, and displaying information.
- Regularly provide staff with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.

Pool Users

- Stay home if you are sick or do not feel well.
- Use social distancing and maintain at least six feet between individuals in all areas of the pool or aquatic center.
- Do not swim or gather in groups of more than 10.

- Wear a mask or face covering when on the pool deck, entering buildings, or interacting near other pool guests. Masks should be removed prior to swimming as wet masks can cause difficulty breathing.
- Practice good personal hygiene including washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using hand sanitizer, refraining from touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, coughing and sneezing into an elbow, etc.
- Bring trash bags, food, and supplies. Plan to carry in and carry out trash and other items.

Confirmed Cases

- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at work.
- Contact the local health district about suspected cases or exposures.
- Shutdown area for deep sanitation if possible.

- Work with local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/ notifications.
- Once testing is readily available, test all suspected infections or exposures.
- Following testing, contact local health department to initiate appropriate care and tracing.

*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.