



## Imperial County Department of Public Health DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Public Swimming Pool Operations During COVID-19 Guidance

For swimming pool facilities to safely reopen, and maintain social distancing and operational best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, utilize the following guidance:

#### Disinfection Plan and Oversight

- Pools shall complete and post the [Imperial County Worksite – Specific Protection Plan](#). In the Plan, describe how the measures in this guidance document will be met. The plan must be posted onsite at the facility, it does not need to be submitted to the County.
- Designate a person to be responsible for evaluating and implementing the measures in the Plan and in this guidance document. Determine who will ensure that the measures are being followed.
  - For an HOA, the designated person responsible for the pool and facility area is typically the HOA Manager or an HOA board member.
- Designate a person to be responsible for monitoring the restroom or changing rooms to ensure that the facilities are stocked with soap, paper towels, and has running water.
- Increase the frequency of restroom and changing room cleaning and disinfection based on the volume of the pool facility area use.
- Restrooms and showers must remain open to allow access by the pool and facility area users and should be frequently disinfected.

#### Disinfection Guidance

- Frequently disinfect common touch points, such as chairs, tables, entry/exit gate and door handles, pool handrails, restroom facilities, shower water faucet handles, changing room benches and lockers, pool kickboards, and floatation devices, and any other common touch points, using a disinfectant that is [EPA approved](#) and effective against Coronavirus. If pool facilities are in continuous use, hourly disinfection is recommended. For less frequently used pool facilities, disinfection between users is recommended.
- At locations with no onsite person to monitor disinfection efforts, provide disinfection wipes that the pool and facility area users can use to disinfect common touchpoints before and after use.

#### Limit Users

- Ensure proper social distancing is maintained by all pool users that are not part of the same household. Limit the number of persons on the pool deck and in the pool to ensure six feet of social distancing is always maintained.
- Changing rooms and restrooms should be monitored to ensure that the number of people inside at one time allows for proper social distancing. Changing rooms (not restrooms) may need to be closed or have limited access to achieve proper social distancing.
- 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. Implement scheduled time slots for use on the busiest days to control the flow of users.

### **Social Distancing**

- All chairs and tables must be set up to maintain 6 foot social distancing. Remove, store, or label unused tables and chairs to prevent use. Each facility must ensure that the spacing of the chairs and tables still provides a clear deck space of 4 feet around the pool and/or spa/hot tub, as required by State law.
- Prohibit parties or gatherings in all common areas including the pool.

### **General Requirements**

- Spray ground and water features may operate, if proper social distancing can be maintained by all users that are not part of the same household. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained and monitored, then these features should be prohibited from use.
- Use of indoor pools are not allowed at this time. When allowed, ensure indoor ventilation systems are operating properly. In addition to the ventilation system, increasing the introduction and circulation of outdoor air by opening windows and doors is recommended as long as this does not pose a safety risk to children, staff, or pool and facility area users.
- Drinking fountains should be covered to prevent usage unless specifically designed to provide touchless, automatic water dispensing to fill water containers. Individuals can bring their own water in a non-glass container if beverages are allowed in pool area.
- Use of spas/hot tubs and steam rooms is not allowed at this time.
- When feasible, it is recommended that swim lesson and group activity instructors teach from the pool deck. For those swim classes that require fact-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 on 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.
- Team competitions and/or tournaments are not allowed at this time.

### **Resources**

For information regarding COVID-19 in Imperial County please visit

Imperial County Public Health Department website at [www.icphd.org](http://www.icphd.org)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Parks and Recreation Venues](#)

[State Guidelines for Fitness Facilities](#)

[COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Campgrounds, RV Parks, and Outdoor Recreation](#)

For questions regarding public swimming pool operations, please contact Imperial County Public Health, Division of Environmental Health at (442)265-1888.