



COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JANETTE ANGULO, M.P.A.
Director

STEPHEN MUNDAY, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Health Officer

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COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for Public Swimming Pools and Spas

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a novel coronavirus that causes respiratory illness. The virus is primarily spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

The Imperial County Health Officer issued an Amended Order, which was effective at 12:00AM on April 1, 2020 and will remain in effect until rescinded.

Pool/Spa Closures

As part of the Health Officer Order, all public and private “gatherings” of any size are strongly discouraged. Therefore, all pools and spas operating under an Imperial County Public Health Department’s Recreational Health - Pool Permit **MUST CLOSE** to the public effective immediately. Closure signs and locking devices shall be placed at all entries of the pool/spa area. Public pools/spas shall not allow entry to anyone, except for maintenance operators.

Pool Maintenance

The pool/spa is to be maintained in a properly sanitized, clean, and clear condition. Routine maintenance will include, cleaning, filtering, and chemical balancing.

Routine maintenance shall also include cleaning the bottom, sides, and other surfaces of the public pool as often as necessary to keep surfaces free of slime and algae. The pool operator shall not allow debris, trash, or leaves to accumulate in public pools. In the event that the operator is unavailable, the facility owner shall provide an alternative plan and enough chemical supplies on-site for the continued maintenance of the pool/spa.

Please note: Not maintaining the chemical balance and adequate filtration of the pool/spa may pose other health risks to the community, such as mosquito breeding.

Social Distancing at Recreational Facility

To the extent feasible, you must ensure that ONLY the maintenance operator can be present at the public pool/spa. If more than one operator is necessary on-site, operators are to ensure that social distancing is practiced at all times by maintaining a six (6) foot separation from all persons. To ensure no public is in the pool/spa area, operators shall post a closure sign and lock all entry doors to the pool/spa area with physical locking mechanisms.

Additional Information

Although, there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be transmitted to humans through water or the use of pools and spas, gatherings at the pool/spa area may exacerbate the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, non-essential facilities, such as public pools/spas are to remain closed.

Please note that the information and requirements pertaining to COVID-19 may change as more is learned about this virus and its transmission. It is the responsibility of the pool/spa operator to make every effort to obtain the latest information on public pools/spas as it relates to COVID-19. Up to date legal orders as well as additional information, status reports, and website links can be accessed on the Imperial County Public Health website: <http://icphd.org>.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lamoure, Deputy Director