

Protocols for Reopening of Swimming Pools in Shared Residential Facilities

Recent Updates: (Changes highlighted in yellow)

2/12/21:

- Outdoor pools may be open for routine use provided that pool users maintain 6-foot physical distance from non-household members and that pool users wear a face covering at all times when they are not in the water.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Public Health) is calling on the public, all business owners and community organizations to support the reopening of businesses, recreational activities, and public spaces by following this and other Public Health protocols. This protocol applies to the reopening and use of swimming pools located at apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations.

Outdoor residential pools may be open for **routine use**. Indoor residential pools remain closed.

All pool operators covered by this protocol must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures that ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

All residential pool operators covered by this protocol must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the business.

Business name:

Facility Address:

Date Posted:

A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE HEALTH (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)

- Check here if there are no onsite employees for the facility/property. *Skip to Section B.*
- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- Vulnerable staff (those above age 65, those with chronic health conditions) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick and to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation if applicable.
 - Create a roster of trained back-up employees.
 - Information on employer or government-sponsored leave benefits the employee may be entitled to receive that would make it financially easier to stay at home has been provided to employees. See additional information on government [programs](#) supporting sick leave and worker's compensation for COVID19, including employee's sick leave rights under the [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) and employee's rights to workers' compensation benefits and presumption of the work-relatedness of COVID-19 pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-62-20](#).
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) isolate themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The employer's plan should consider a protocol for all quarantined employees to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures.
- [Employee screenings](#) are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing and fever or chills and whether the individual is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.
- In the event that 3 or more cases are identified within the workplace within a span of 14 days the employer should report this cluster to the Department of Public Health at (888) 397-3993 or (213) 240-7821 **or online at www.redcap.link/covidreport**. If a cluster is identified at a worksite, the Department of Public Health will initiate a cluster response which includes providing infection control guidance and recommendations, technical support and site-specific control measures. A public health case manager will be assigned to the cluster investigation to help guide the facility response.
- Employees who have contact with others are offered, at no cost, an appropriate face covering that covers the nose and mouth. The covering **must** be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering **must** wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves **must** not be used. **All employees must wear face coverings at all times except when working alone in private offices with closed doors, when swimming, or when eating or drinking.**
- Employees are instructed to wash or replace their face coverings daily.
- To ensure that masks are worn consistently and correctly, employees are discouraged from eating or drinking except during their breaks when they are able to safely remove their masks and physically distance from others. At all times when eating or drinking, employees must maintain at least a six-foot distance from others. When eating or drinking, it is preferred to do so outdoors and away from others, if possible. Eating or drinking at a cubicle or workstation is preferred to eating in a breakroom if eating in a cubicle or workstation provides greater distance from and barriers between workers.**

- Occupancy is reduced and space between employees is maximized in any room or area used employees for meals and/or breaks. This has been achieved by:
 - Posting a maximum occupancy that is consistent with enabling a distance of at least six feet between individuals in rooms or areas used for breaks; and
 - Staggering break or mealtimes to reduce occupancy in rooms or areas used for meals and breaks; and
 - Placing tables six feet apart and assuring six feet between seats, removing or taping seats to reduce occupancy, placing markings on floors to assure distancing, and arranging seating in a way that minimizes face-to-face contact. Use of partitions is encouraged to further prevent spread but should not be considered a substitute for reducing occupancy and maintaining physical distancing.
- Employees need not wear a cloth face covering when the employee is entering the water.
- Shifts are staggered or rotated to limit the number of employees present at the aquatic venue at the same time.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):

- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):

- Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- A copy of this protocol has been distributed to each employee.
- All policies described in this checklist other than those related to terms of employment are applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.
- Optional – Describe other measures:

B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Limit use of pool facility to ensure that pool users can maintain 6 feet physical distance from those they do not live with, or up to 50% of pool user capacity, whichever is less.
 - Indicate current pool user capacity: _____ Indicate 50% pool user capacity: _____
 - Inform all resident households about pool user capacity limit.
 - Consider implementing reservations for pool use. For example, this could include reserving full lanes for individual lap swimming and half-lanes for individual household use.
 - Lap swimmers must keep a 6 feet physical distance from those they do not live with. It may be necessary to limit the number of swimmers that may use a lane for lap swimming at any given time.
- Outdoor hot tubs/spas/jacuzzi may be open for use by household groups or to individuals from different households in cases where six feet of distancing can be maintained.
- Water slides, rides or other water attractions at the pool should be kept closed.
- If a lifeguard is on-duty, the lifeguard is not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing of others.
- It is recommended that a designated person or group of residents be responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the maximum number of pool users as set forth above is not exceeded. The designated person should also monitor adherence to all interim guidelines.

- Measures to ensure social distancing (individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart from those they do not live with) have been implemented.
 - Change deck layouts and other areas surrounding the pool to ensure that the standing and seating areas can support physical distancing requirements, while maintaining clear deck space of 4 feet around the pool, as required by State law. This can include removing chairs or taping off areas to discourage use.
 - Providing physical cues or guides (for example, lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and signs and visual cues (for example, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) to ensure that residents and swimmers stay at least 6 feet apart, both in and out of the water.
- Prohibit guests that are not residents of the apartment, condominium or homeowner's association from using the pool facilities.
- Prohibit parties or gatherings in all common areas including the pool.

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Visitors arriving at the establishment are reminded to wear a face covering at all times (except while in the water) while in the establishment or on the grounds of the establishment. This applies to all adults and to children 2 years of age and older. **Persons who have been instructed by their medical provider that they should not wear a face covering must wear a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, to be in compliance with State directives, as long as their condition permits it. A drape that is form fitting under the chin is preferred. Masks with one-way valves must not be used.**
- Symptom checks are conducted before visitors may enter the facility. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fever or chills and whether the individual is currently under isolation or quarantine orders. These checks can be done in person or through alternative methods such as on-line check in systems or through [signage](#) posted at the entrance to the facility stating that visitors with these symptoms should not enter the premises.
- Conduct a pool safety check to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection and that pool has been evaluated for safety equipment.
 - Proper operation and maintenance should inactivate virus in the water
- For facilities that have not been operating, flush each of the hot and cold-water fixtures for five minutes prior to reopening to replace stale water in the facility's plumbing with a fresh and safe water supply. This includes but is not limited to drinking fountains, decorative fountains, hot tubs, etc.
- Implement a cleaning and disinfection plan for frequently touched surfaces and, if used, for shared objects each time they are used. Use EPA approved disinfectant. The following will be cleaned and disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - Handrails and slides _____
 - Lounge chairs, tabletops _____
 - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper changing stations and showers _____
 - Common-use facilities _____
 - Restrooms _____
 - Other _____
- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues and trash cans that are available to the residents.

- If not removed, ensure that furniture (e.g. lounge chairs) or other common-use items are cleaned and disinfected between users. Residents may bring supplies to disinfect furniture and common-use items after they use them. It is recommended that residents bring their own furniture or common-use items.
- Individuals should bring their own towels to the pool and should not share towels with those outside of their household.
- No food or beverages can be distributed on pool decks with others, and household members should not share any food or beverages with non-household members to reduce the risk for infection transmission.
- Water fountains or water coolers are shut off and may not be used.
- Ensure ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly.
 - Increase introduction and circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Consider installing portable high-efficiency air cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of outside air and ventilation in all working areas.
 - However, do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, residents, or swimmers.

D. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC

- A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the pool facility.
- Signage at each public entrance of the pool facility is posted to inform pool users to stay home if they are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Signage is posted that reminds pool users to maintain social distancing of six feet from non-household members to the extent possible.
 - If open, spa/jacuzzi signage that limits its use to one person or household at a time.
- Signage encouraging all residents and swimmers to wash their hands often or use sanitizer upon entry into the pool facility. Provide or ask residents to bring a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Signage reminding residents to wear a face covering when traveling through common areas to and from the pool and shared restrooms. **Remind swimmers to remove cloth face covering when entering water.**

E. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

- Measures are instituted to assure access to the pool for residents who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.

You can also find guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for social distancing and facility/surface disinfection procedures at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>.