

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Phase
3-4

Directions for the Operation of Pools



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Government of Bermuda's website coronavirus.gov.bm



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Health

Directions for the Operation of Pools

Know the Risk

Currently, there is no evidence that Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be spread to other persons through water such as pools if appropriate disinfection with chlorine or bromine is maintained.

In addition to the following directions; operators should review the “Return to Work Recommendations for Business Operations in Bermuda” and complete the mandatory Infection Prevention and Control training.

Make provisions for the following before opening:

1. [Promote Physical Distancing](#)
2. [Develop Sick Policies](#)
3. [Maintaining a Healthy Environment](#)

Promote Physical Distancing

- Consider access time slots rather than random access through-out the day. One (1) to Two (2) hour time slots with a limited amount of persons (20 person limit) for the entire facility during those time slots.
- If events, such as aquatic fitness classes, swim lessons, swim team practice, or swim meets are held they must meet the 20 person group limit and adhere to physical distancing. Parties should not be permitted at this time.
- Avoid gatherings, or meetings both in and out of the water if physical distancing of at least six (6) feet or two (2) metres between persons cannot be maintained. Restrict any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- No unaccompanied minors are permitted, one parent or guardian must be in attendance.
- In an emergency; exceptions to the physical distancing may be required and should be clearly communicated with all staff. Circumstances include:
 - Anyone rescuing a distressed swimmer, providing first aid, or performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, with or without an automated external defibrillator.
 - Individuals in the process of evacuating an aquatic venue or entire facility due to an emergency.
- Provide physical cues or guides (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 6 feet apart from those they don't live with, both in and out of the water.
- Change deck layouts to ensure that in the standing and seating areas, individuals can remain at least six (6) feet or two (2) metres apart from those they don't live with.
- Ensure staggered use of communal spaces including staff rooms. Consider staggering or rotating shifts where safe to do so to limit the number of staff present at the aquatic venue at the same time.
- Restrict or limit access to shower and bathroom facilities. If access is allowed consider opening only small portions to facilitate easier cleaning. Ensure physical distancing is carried out in group changing facilities.
- If lockers are to be used, develop a plan for assigning which allows physical distancing and proper cleaning in between users.

Develop Sick Policies

- Educate staff, patrons, and swimmers about when to stay home (for example, if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days).
- Establish a sick policy applicable to staff, patrons, and other service providers (volunteers). Facilities should screen staff before the start of each shift.
- Consider the use of contactless infrared thermometers to check the temperature of staff each day. Any employee or client who has a temperature above 99.4°F should not be permitted access to the premises.
- All staff shall monitor their health and condition, keeping an eye out in particular for any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Staff that fall ill while working must be sent home immediately and not allowed to return to the facility until they have no fever and no evidence of COVID-19 symptoms. Personnel who are sick are expected to stay home and contact their physician via telephone.
- Require written authorization from the staff's physician confirming they can return to work.
- If an outbreak occurs, public health officials will require access to your records. Maintain secure detailed records that will allow contact tracing. Records should include:
 - Patron's full name
 - Date of attendance, time, teacher class or event
 - Contact Information: Phone Number(s)/Email Address
- Record details for all other persons who must enter the workplace such as servicemen.
- Have additional systems in place for notifying staff, patrons, and swimmers of aquatic venue closures.

Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Clean and disinfect the pool area.
- Evaluate disinfectant protocols for the pool.
 - Check pool chemicals to ensure proper disinfectant levels.
 - Have a closure policy when disinfectant limits are not reached during testing. Re-open once levels are appropriate.
- Evaluate potable water supplies.
 - Ensure that all potable water supplies (for example, hand-washing, drinking, showering) are safe to use and properly disinfected after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of other diseases associated with water (e.g. Legionella).
- Signs and Messages
 - Post a copy of this guidance in a conspicuous location for all users.
 - Post signs about how to stop the spread of COVID-19, proper handwashing. Place in highly visible areas.
 - Include messages about COVID-19 updates in emails and on facility websites.
- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
 - Encourage all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes.
- Wear cloth face coverings in communal areas
 - Face coverings to be worn except when in the water. Cloth face coverings can be difficult to breathe through when they're wet.

- Adequate Supplies
 - Ensuring adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Provide regular cleaning and disinfection of all frequently touched surfaces at least daily. Clean shared objects each time they are used.
- Cleaning must be carried out using proper PPE. Employees should follow the directions on the label of the products. Ensure that cleaning products are stored properly and access is restricted.
- Maintain and regularly clean restrooms that remain open. Always ensure that open restrooms are:
 - Operating with functional toilets.
 - Clean, and disinfect restrooms particularly high-touch surfaces such as faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches daily or more often using an EPA-registered disinfectant that is effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
 - Regularly stocked with supplies for hand washing, including soap and paper towels or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and no-touch trash cans.
- Consider cleaning methods and appropriate disinfectants to be used for furniture (e.g. lounge chairs) pool training equipment (e.g. kickboards, pool noodles or blow up equipment) or discontinue use.
- Protect items that have been cleaned and disinfected from becoming contaminated before use. A used drop off area and a clean item collection area should be available.
- Provide adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kickboards and pool noodles, to prevent sharing and disinfect between uses.
- There should be no sharing of items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect or that are meant to come in contact with the face (for example, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
- If towels and robes are provided; launder according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest water temperature possible and dry items completely. Alternatively, discontinue towel and robe services.

INFECTION PREVENTION CONTROL TRAINING

<https://www.gov.bm/infection-prevention-and-control-training>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus-workplace>

<https://www.gov.bm/coronavirus-phase3-guidance>

<https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/Return-to-Work-Recommendations-for-Businesses-v5.pdf>

https://www.gov.bm/sites/default/files/Guidance_for_Occupational_Safety_PORTAL.pdf

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>