

COVID-19 Preparedness Plan Guidance: Requirements for Public Pools

4/15/2021

Executive Order 21-11 began Monday, March 15, 2021, at 12 p.m. (noon) and does not have an end date. Effective Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., larger venues, restaurants, gyms and pools were able to expand their occupancy per the Stay Safe Guidance. Effective Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 11:59 p.m., the requirement to work from home shifted to a strong recommendation.

[Frequently Asked Questions about Stay Safe MN \(mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/faq/index.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/faq/index.jsp) or [Stay Safe Industry Guidance \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/index.jsp) may have additional clarifications about requirements and recommendations.

Updates to this document including making "work from home" a strong recommendation instead of a requirement as well as including a requirement for providing reasonable accommodations to workers.

Requirements for EO 21-11

The full executive order (EO) with all requirements can be found at [Executive Orders from Governor Walz \(mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp).

- ✓ **Social gatherings limited.** Social gatherings are limited as stated on [Stay Safe in Social Gatherings \(staysafe.mn.gov/individuals-families/social-gatherings.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/individuals-families/social-gatherings.jsp). Most commercial activities are not considered social gatherings, so this change will not impact most industries.
- ✓ **Masks and face coverings required.** EO 20-81, requiring face coverings in certain settings, remains in full force and effect, except as amended by EO 21-11. See [Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html). Executive Order 21-01 and EO 21-07 clarify that face coverings may not be removed during exercise or activities involving physical exertion. However, **do not allow swimming with cloth face coverings on. Cloth face coverings can make it difficult to breathe when wet, increasing the risk of drowning.**
- ✓ **People at higher risk.** All people currently living within the State of Minnesota who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, as defined by Executive Order 20-55, are strongly urged to stay at home or in their place of residence and follow the provisions of Executive Order 20-55.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- ✓ **Work from home.** Effective April 15, 2021, working from home is strongly recommended, and businesses are strongly encouraged to allow employees to work from home when possible. Employers must provide reasonable accommodations as required under existing federal and state law. Employers are strongly encouraged to provide reasonable accommodations to employees with one or more members of their household who have underlying medical conditions and who are unable to be vaccinated.
- ✓ **Businesses and activities are affected differently.** For a full listing of all business and activity requirements and limitations, see the full executive order at [Executive Orders from Governor Walz \(mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp\)](https://www.mn.gov/governor/news/executiveorders.jsp). Please review the guidance below for industry-specific requirements.

Public pools defined

- ✓ Public pools are defined in [Minnesota Statutes 2020, Section 1444.1222 Public Pools; Enclosed Sports Arenas \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.1222\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/144.1222).
- ✓ "Public pool" means any pool other than a private residential pool, that is:
 - Open to the public generally, whether for a fee or free of charge;
 - Open exclusively to members of an organization and their guests;
 - Open to residents of a multiunit apartment building, apartment complex, residential real estate development, or other multifamily residential area;
 - Open to patrons of a hotel or lodging or other public accommodation facility; or
 - Operated by a person in a park, school, licensed child care facility, group home, motel, camp, resort, club, condominium, manufactured home park, or political subdivision.
- ✓ Swimming pools at family day care homes licensed under section [Minnesota Statutes 2020, 245A.14, subdivision 11 \(www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245A.14#stat.245A.14.11\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/245A.14#stat.245A.14.11), paragraph (a) are not "public pools."

Public pool requirements

Public pools may be open to all users, provided that the elements found in this guidance document are addressed in an organization's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.

Occupancy of public pool enclosures must not exceed 50% of the normal occupant capacity as established by state or local authorities in accordance with applicable codes and requirements, not to exceed 250 people.

Additionally, a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing for patrons from different households is required while in the pool and while on the deck (for example, while preparing to enter the pool or waiting in line for a slide).

If a pool is located within a place of public accommodation with limited occupancy, such as a fitness center, the occupants of a pool must be counted toward the overall occupancy of the place of public accommodation.

Spa pools may open, but steam rooms and saunas must remain closed until further notice.

Pools that remain closed

Secure premises to prevent access

Drowning remains a leading cause of accidental injury death in the United States. Be sure all doors, gates, and windows that allow access to pools are closed and locked.

Maintain recirculation and disinfection

All pools and spas

Maintain the pool chemistry even if the pool is not operational.

- ✓ Keep the water chemically balanced to prevent damage to surfaces and equipment by corrosive or scale-forming water. Properly balanced water will prevent biofilm and algae growth.
- ✓ Minimize the use of pool heaters. Heaters should be run for 15-20 minutes after starting circulation to ensure they are operating correctly. After that, they can be turned off until the pool is ready to be open for bathers.
- ✓ Reduce the speed of the circulation pump. Ensure there is enough water flow to keep the chemical controllers operating, and to turn the volume of water over at least once daily.
- ✓ Maintain the pool as normal. Check and balance the water chemistry, remove debris, and clean the skimmer and pump baskets no less than once a week. Continued maintenance includes brushing, vacuuming, and backwashing.

Aquatic play features

Aquatic play features or fountains such as water slides, cascading mushrooms, dumping buckets, or spray decks must be operated intermittently. Circulate water through these features several times per week for at least 30 minutes to help reduce pathogens in plumbing lines that service these features.

Hot tubs and spas: *Legionella* concerns

Extended closures of hot tubs and spas can increase the risk of waterborne diseases such as Legionnaires' disease. *Legionella* is the organism that causes Legionnaire's Disease and Pontiac Fever. It is important to ensure hot tubs and spas are safe to use and minimize the transmission of *Legionella* and other bacteria.

See the following CDC guidance:

[Extended Hot Tub/Spa Closures \(www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/extended-hot-tub-closures.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/extended-hot-tub-closures.html)

[Operating Public Hot Tubs/Spas \(www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/operating-public-hot-tubs.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/operating-public-hot-tubs.html)

[Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html)

COVID-19 Preparedness Plans: Requirements for public pools

Prevent the spread of COVID-19

The requirements and recommendations in Preparedness Plans will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and are based on the core principles below. Following the requirements and recommendations will reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 but will not eliminate it. COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. Anytime people gather, the risk of spreading COVID-19 increases for everyone.

The best way to reduce your risk of getting sick from or spreading COVID-19 is to:

- ✓ Wear a face covering (except when swimming or doing other activities that would involve soaking a face covering in water, such as showering).
- ✓ Keep at least 6 feet of physical distance from people not in the same household.
- ✓ Stay home if you are sick or exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- ✓ Wash hands often.

Vaccine is being administered across Minnesota. Get vaccinated when it is your turn. Even after a person has recovered from COVID-19 or is fully vaccinated they should still continue to stay distanced, wear a mask that fits well, wash their hands often, and follow other precautions. For more information, see [COVID-19 Vaccine \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/index.html).

COVID-19 Preparedness Plans

As required by the Executive Orders (also referred to as “EOs”) issued by Governor Tim Walz under the Peacetime Emergency, all businesses, both critical or non-critical, and other entities identified in the EOs, are legally required to develop and implement COVID-19 Preparedness Plans (also referred to as “Plan” or “Plans”). Under the EOs, a “business” and “businesses” include entities that employ or engage workers, including private-sector entities, public-sector entities, non-profit entities, and state, county, and local governments. “Worker” and “workers” are broadly defined by the EOs to include owners, proprietors, employees, contractors, vendors, volunteers, and interns.

For purposes of this Plan Guidance, “other entities” includes those entities identified in the EOs that are not covered by the definition of a “business” but are also required by an EO to develop and implement Plans. Other entities include places of public accommodation, establishments, institutions, facilities, venues, and organizers identified in the EOs. Plan Guidance is designed to protect workers, customers, and other members of the public from the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.

This Plan Guidance constitutes the “Plan Guidance” referred to in EO 21-11 and applies to all identified businesses and other entities. **Businesses and other entities must develop and implement COVID-19 Preparedness Plans that address the following:**

The requirements of EO 21-11,

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- ✓ The requirements included in the Universal Plan Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans found at [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp), and
- ✓ The requirements included in the Plan Guidance that are applicable to their business or entity.

Unless clearly indicated that an action is recommended and included under “Recommendations,” **businesses and other entities should understand that the Plan Guidance imposes legally enforceable requirements.** In instances where a requirement uses language “to the extent possible,” the action is required, to the extent it is possible for the business or entity to implement the requirement.

Depending on the activities engaged in by a business or other entity, it may be required to comply with additional industry or activity specific plan guidance, such as plan guidance applicable to bars and restaurants, if the facility serves food and beverages or plan guidance applicable to businesses that provide personal services, if the facility has a hair salon.

Frequently Asked Questions have been posted to respond to questions about provisions of Executive Orders and Plan Guidance. The following is a link to current [Frequently Asked Questions about Stay Safe MN \(mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/faq/index.jsp\)](https://mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/faq/index.jsp).

Required plan sections

1. [Health screening](#)
2. [Manage occupant capacity](#)
3. [Maintain social distance of at least 6 feet](#)
4. [Swimming lessons](#)
5. [Group fitness classes](#)
6. [Recreational lap swimming](#)
7. [Competitive swimming](#)
8. [Lifeguard and pool operator certification](#)
9. [Emergency protocols and other safety concerns](#)
10. [Water chemistry and maintenance](#)
11. [Staffing](#)
12. [Training and communication](#)
13. [Cleaning and disinfecting](#)

Requirements and recommendations

1. Health screening

Requirements

- ✓ Follow the requirements included in the Universal Plan Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans found at [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).

2. Manage occupant capacity

Requirements (through March 31, 2021):

- ✓ **Occupant capacity:** Unless otherwise expressly permitted under these requirements, pools must reduce occupancy for the entire facility to that which is necessary to allow for the required social distancing and occupancy limits.
 - To calculate the permitted maximum occupant capacity for the pool facility, the facility must begin with the occupant capacity of the venue whenever required or established by applicable state or local authorities in accordance with established codes and requirements. If unsure of the occupant capacity, the facility must consult with the applicable state or local authorities with jurisdiction.
 - Occupancy must be limited to no greater than 50%, not to exceed 250 patrons for the entire pool facility.
 - If a pool is located within a place of public accommodation with limited occupancy, such as a fitness center, the occupants of a pool must be counted toward the overall occupancy of the place of public accommodation.
 - If a pool facility does not maintain an occupant capacity that is required or established by applicable state or local authorities, the facility must use the following calculation to determine the occupant capacity allowed for the pool facility:
 - Step 1: Determine the total area (in square-feet) of space within the venue that is accessible to, and may be occupied by, patrons while at the venue/event.
 - Step 2: Ensure all areas that are not accessible to patrons are not included within the total area occupied by patrons.
 - Step 3: Divide the total area by 113 (i.e., 113 square-feet per person; See [US Fire Administration's Understanding the Impact of Social Distancing on Occupancy \(www.usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/planning_response/occupancy_social_distancing.html\)](https://www.usfa.fema.gov/coronavirus/planning_response/occupancy_social_distancing.html)).
 - Step 4: Referring to the requirements provided in Executive Orders or this document for occupant capacity, complete the following:
 - If the number is less than the maximum number permitted in the requirements (i.e. "cap"), then the resulting calculation is the maximum number of patrons allowed for the business at any given time.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- If the number is greater than the maximum number permitted (i.e., “cap”), the number of customers/patrons may not exceed the maximum number permitted (i.e., “cap”) at any given time.
- Workers do not need to be considered when determining the occupancy of a pool.
- ✓ **Social distancing requirements:** If the permitted number of occupants/patrons does not allow for a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing between patrons from different households while in the pool, and while on the deck (for example, while preparing to enter the pool or waiting in line for a slide), the pool must further reduce the number of occupants/patrons it allows to a level that achieves consistency with these requirements.
- ✓ **Social distancing requirements on pool deck:** If the permitted number of occupants/patrons does not allow for proper social distancing on the pool deck in the event of a fecal incident or other life-safety situation where bathers may need to exit the pool and remain on the pool deck or evacuate to another location, the pool must further reduce the number of occupants/patrons it allows to a level that achieves consistency with these requirements.
- ✓ Additional spacing is required for various activities, as described in this document.
- ✓ **Schedule for activities:** Establish a schedule with time slots for various activities and allow sign-ups online and/or by phone.
- ✓ **Communication of capacity:** Venues must ensure the maximum number of patrons allowed within the venue (as determined by the above requirements) is expressly stated in the written COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the venue. The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan must also include all rated occupant capacities, social distancing calculations, and other factors used to derive the capacity used by the venue.

Requirements (effective April 1, 2021):

- ✓ **Determining occupant capacity:** Unless otherwise expressly permitted under these requirements, pools must reduce the occupant capacity for the pool facility to that which is necessary to meet the social distancing requirements in this guidance at all times.
 - To calculate the permitted maximum occupant capacity for the pool facility, the facility must begin with the normal occupant capacity whenever required or established by applicable state or local authorities in accordance with established codes and requirements. If a pool facility is unsure of its occupant capacity, the facility must consult with the applicable state or local authorities with jurisdiction.
 - Workers do not need to be considered when determining the occupancy of the venue.
 - Parents/guardians of minors: If a patron is a minor that requires supervision, the minor and the parent or guardian are each counted as individual occupants.
- ✓ **Indoor pools:** Occupancy for indoor pools cannot exceed the maximum number of persons, as determined by the following:
 - Less than 500 persons: If the rated occupant capacity of the entire pool facility is 500 persons or less, then the occupancy for the entire pool facility cannot exceed **50%** of the rated occupant capacity or **250** people at any time, whichever is less.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- Greater than 500 persons: If the rated occupant capacity of the entire indoor pool facility is greater than 500 persons, then business must use the following calculation to determine the maximum occupancy for the entire venue:
 - Step 1: Start with the rated occupant capacity for the entire venue and **subtract 500**.
 - Step 2: Take the difference and **multiply it by 10%** (0.10).
 - Step 3: Take the number and **add 250**.
 - Step 4: If the sum is less than **1,500**, then the resulting calculation is the maximum number of persons allowed within the entire venue at any given time. If the sum is greater than **1,500**, then the maximum number of people **may not exceed 1,500** at any given time.
 - EXAMPLE: An indoor pool facility maintains a rated occupant capacity of 3,000 patrons.
 - $3,000 - 500 = 2,500$;
 - $2,500 \times 0.10 = 250$;
 - $250 + 250 = 500$.
- ✓ **Outdoor pools:** Occupancy for outdoor pools cannot exceed the maximum number of persons as determined by the following:
 - Less than 500 persons: If the rated occupant capacity of the entire pool facility is 500 persons or less, then the occupancy for the entire venue cannot exceed **50%** of the rated occupant capacity or **250** people at any time, whichever is less.
 - Greater than 500 persons: If the rated occupant capacity of the entire pool facility is greater than 500 persons, the business must use the following calculation to determine the maximum occupancy for the pool facility:
 - Step 1: Start with the rated occupant capacity for the entire pool facility and **subtract 500**.
 - Step 2: Take the difference and **multiply it by 15%** (0.15).
 - Step 3: Take this number and **add 250**.
 - Step 4: If the sum is less than **10,000**, then the resulting calculation is the maximum number of persons allowed within the entire outdoor pool facility at any given time. If the sum is greater than **10,000**, then the maximum number of people **may not exceed 10,000** at any given time.
 - EXAMPLE: An outdoor pool facility maintains an occupant capacity of 10,000 patrons. The maximum capacity permitted is 1,675 ($10,000 - 500 = 9,500$; $9,500 \times 0.15 = 1,425$; $1,425 + 250 = 1,675$).
- ✓ Social distancing requirements: If the permitted number of occupants/patrons does not allow for a minimum of 6 feet of social distancing between patrons from different households while in the pool, and while on the deck (for example, while preparing to enter the pool or waiting in line for a slide), the pool must further reduce the number of occupants/patrons it allows to a level that achieves consistency with these requirements.
- ✓ Social distancing requirements on pool deck: If the permitted number of occupants/patrons does not allow for proper social distancing on the pool deck in the event of a fecal incident or other life-

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

safety situation where bathers may need to exit the pool and remain on the pool deck or evacuate to another location, the pool must further reduce the number of occupants/patrons it allows to a level that achieves consistency with these requirements.

- ✓ Social distancing requirements for activities: Additional spacing is required for various activities, as described in this document.
- ✓ Schedule for activities: Establish a schedule with time slots for various activities and allow sign-ups online and/or by phone.
- ✓ Communication of Capacity: Venues must ensure the maximum number of patrons allowed within the venue (as determined by the above requirements) is expressly stated in the written COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the venue. The COVID-19 Preparedness Plan must also include all rated occupant capacities, social distancing calculations, and other factors used to derive the capacity used by the venue.

Recommendations

- ✓ Consider assigning separate entries and exits and manage the flow of users to move in one direction.
- ✓ Consider staggering entry of users and establish time limits to maximize the number of users while maintaining capacity limits.

3. Maintain social distance of at least 6 feet

Requirements

- ✓ Follow the requirements included in the Universal Plan Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans found at [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).

Lobby and locker rooms

- ✓ Ensure 6 feet of social distancing is maintained at all times in locker rooms, lobbies, and other areas outside of the pool or pool deck.
 - These social distancing requirements do not prevent a facility from allowing an adult to provide support to a person who, by reason of age, medical condition, or disability, needs assistance with activities (e.g., exercise, swimming, changing, using the restroom, etc.).
- ✓ Establish safe places for guests to wait for entry.
- ✓ Install sanitizing stations at the entrance to your facility and at key locations throughout the facility where customers are likely to contact shared equipment. If hand sanitizer is provided, ensure it contains at least 60% alcohol.
- ✓ Enforce the requirements for user sanitation and safety, including showering, as stated in [Minnesota Rule 4717.1650: User Sanitation and Safety \(www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1650/\)](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1650/).
- ✓ Do not allow guests to congregate while waiting for access. Consider using floor markings, outdoor distancing, waiting in cars, or other techniques to maintain adequate separation.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

Spa pools

- ✓ Social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained between users of a spa pool from different households. Limiting the use of the spa pool to one user or one household at a time may be necessary, depending on the size of the spa pool.

Wading pools

- ✓ Social distancing requirements do not need to be met for household members using a wading pool together, for example, a parent and small child. Each household group must maintain 6 feet of social distance from members of other households.

Pool deck and accessory features

- ✓ Locate deck furniture in accordance with distancing requirements.
- ✓ If diving boards, slides, or other aquatic play features are used, queuing areas must be marked to provide for physical distancing of 6 feet. For example, by using floor markings, lane lines, and/or marking of adjacent areas where patrons are waiting for their turn.

Recommendations

- ✓ Encourage re-arranging locker rooms or putting in place other physical barriers or markings to encourage social distancing.

4. Swimming Lessons

Requirements

- ✓ Students in swimming lessons must remain a minimum of 6 feet apart from one another. The social distancing requirement does not need to be met for students from the same household.
 - Instructors may be closer to students than 6 feet as necessary to aid swimmers.
- ✓ The maximum number of students allowed in a swimming lesson class is 25.
- ✓ If more than one swimming lesson class is held concurrently, each class must be spaced at least 6 feet away from any other class.
- ✓ Stagger start and end times between swimming lesson classes to minimize crowding on deck and in locker rooms.
- ✓ Instructors must wear masks as described in EO 20-81. Masks may be removed temporarily while demonstrating strokes or when the instructors' faces must be in the water.

Recommendations

- The use of floating swimming devices/aids (floating barbells, kickboards, etc.) is encouraged to minimize hands-on assistance, and to increase the distance between the swimmers and the instructors.

5. Group fitness classes

Requirements

- ✓ A maximum of 25 people is allowed per indoor group fitness class.
- ✓ A maximum of 50 people is allowed in outdoor group fitness classes.
- ✓ Social distancing of at least 6 feet between people must be maintained while class is in session, and whenever activities involving physical exercise or exertion are being performed.
- ✓ Group fitness classes may not be held concurrently with other activities such as swimming lessons or lap swimming.
- ✓ A reservation system must be established for each class.

6. Recreational lap swimming

Requirements

- ✓ Two patrons per lane at a time are allowed for recreational lap swimming, provided that 6 feet of social distancing is always maintained between swimmers through lane configurations (see USA swimming guidance below for additional guidance)
- ✓ A reservation system must be established for using the lap swimming pool.

7. Competitive swimming

Requirements

- ✓ Organized youth and adult competitive swim teams must ensure that 6 feet of social distance is always maintained between swimmers.
- ✓ More than one swimmer per lane may be allowed for competitive swim practice if a facility's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan includes a diagram of proposed lane configurations and a description of how social distancing requirements will be met.
 - Refer to USA Swimming for guidance related to competitive swimming practice lane configurations: [USA Swimming Facility Re-opening Messaging and Planning \(www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coronavirus-resources---updated/facilityreopeningv3.pdf\)](http://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coronavirus-resources---updated/facilityreopeningv3.pdf).
- ✓ Teams must follow the COVID-19 Guidance for Youth and Adult Sports on [Stay Safe Guidance for Organized Sports \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/organized-sports.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/organized-sports.jsp).

8. Lifeguard and pool operator certification trainings

Requirements

- ✓ Certification courses for lifeguards and trained pool operators may be held. Distance learning should be optimized, and in-person class sizes are restricted to those allowed by current Executive Orders.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- ✓ Health screening must be done before each class, and those experiencing symptoms should be excluded.
- ✓ For in-person lifeguard certification courses, each instructor and student should have their own manikin, educational equipment, and disposable supplies, as applicable. Manikins and shared instruction materials must be disinfected between each use. Follow manufacturers' guidance for manikin cleaning and disinfection.

Recommendations

- Every effort should be made to maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet, except for aspects of training that can only be performed within closer distances and/or contact. The Red Cross has developed social distancing guidance for resuscitation education and "Interim Virtual Skills Training" for portions of its lifeguarding courses. Facilities with access to this material are encouraged to use it when planning and implementing courses.

9. Emergency protocols and other safety considerations

Requirements

Evaluate COVID-19 impact on rescue protocol:

- ✓ Ensure adequate supply and reliable source of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ✓ Evaluate and revise CPR protocol as needed (example: acquire bag valve mask to eliminate the need for mouth to mouth resuscitation).
- ✓ Have staff treat any emergency victim as COVID-19 positive until otherwise determined.

10. Water chemistry and maintenance

Requirements

- ✓ Maintain the disinfection residuals required in the Minnesota pool code: [Minnesota Rule 4717.1750: Pool Water Condition \(www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1750/\)](http://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1750/). Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of swimming pools should kill the virus that causes COVID-19.

11. Staffing

Requirements

- ✓ Ensure adequate staffing to accommodate modifications to the operation, including altered hours of operation and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Train all staff on new procedures and expectations.
- ✓ Each facility must have a designated person on site to ensure that guidelines and regulations are followed. A facility may appoint an attendant or other staff member to perform these duties, as long as the facility is otherwise properly staffed. **A lifeguard while on lifeguard duty may not perform duties of the attendant** or be given additional duties that distract from the responsibilities of lifeguarding.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN GUIDANCE: REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

- ✓ For pools without onsite staff, determine how mandated capacity limits and access will be monitored. Options may include using a screener at the pool entrance or using a video monitoring system.

Recommendations

- Plan employee schedules so that cohort groups work together, when practical. For example, Aaden, Javier, and Ann always work together; Hodan, Dawb, and Peter always work together. However, members of one team never work with another team. Scheduling in teams can help to reduce exposures within the staff.

12. Training and communication

Requirements

- ✓ Follow the requirements included in the Universal Plan Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans found at [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).

13. Cleaning and disinfecting

Requirements

- ✓ Follow the requirements included in the Universal Plan Guidance for COVID-19 Preparedness Plans found at [Stay Safe Guidance for All Business Entities \(staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp\)](https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).
- ✓ Discourage people from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect, or those that are meant to come in contact with the face (for example, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
- ✓ For indoor pools, establish a cleaning protocol that addresses the HVAC system.
- ✓ Do not allow chemicals used to enter the pool water that are used to clean the decks, furniture, or other equipment.

Additional Resources

Visit the CDC website for additional guidance about prevention of COVID-19 and public aquatic facilities: [Guidance for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19 \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html).



Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000
625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format.