

Outdoor community pools, splash parks, and waterparks should have an operational plan in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among employees and patrons at their facilities. CDC has stated that there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can spread directly to humans from water in pools, hot tubs or spas, or water play areas. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (for example, with chlorine or bromine) of pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds should kill the virus that causes COVID-19. However, potential risks for spreading COVID-19 at outdoor community pools, splash parks and waterparks is possible when people are unable to maintain physical distancing and proper hygiene when out of the pool.

Operational plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19 do not need to be submitted for review or approval. However, outdoor community pools, splash parks, and waterparks should make plans available to employees and to their patrons. Requirements for employees and patrons visiting the facility should also be posted on the organizations website and displayed prominently at the facility. Plans should include the following elements based on guidance from the State of Idaho and as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

OUTDOOR POOLS, SPLASH PARKS, AND WATERPARKS SHOULD USE THE FOLLOWING PROTOCOLS AS THEY OPERATE.

Establish protocols to maintain at least six feet physical distance among people.

- Consider how to limit the number of people in the facility at a time to ensure physical distancing
- Consider how some procedures or activities could be conducted outside and limit use of indoor facilities
- Substantially limit or prohibit spectators
- Direct the flow of patrons and employees through the facility to reduce person to person contact, where possible, including spacing or staging lines for slides, rides and other attractions
- Consider how to allow the use of locker rooms and common areas to maintain physical distancing of at least six feet (e.g. make every third locker available for use, space common area chairs six feet apart, etc.)
- Strictly monitor the use of the kiddie pool or other congregate areas of the pools to ensure physical distancing
- Cancel swimming lessons that require the instructor to have physical contact with the patron

Establish protocols to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among employees and patrons.

- Thoroughly disinfect all surfaces and all equipment after each user
- Limit sharing of equipment except among persons in the same household
- Encourage use of cloth face covering or masks and gloves by employee not working near water, where possible
- Post signs on the front door that states that any patron, who has a fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms, including diarrhea, shall not enter the facility or recreational area
 - o Consider greeting patrons and employees outside the facility to administer screening questions about illnesses in themselves or their household members

Establish protocols to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among employees and patrons.

- Monitor employee health by screening employees for fever and symptoms before every shift
 - Check temperature with non-contact thermometer; if fever (temperature greater than 100.4°) or symptoms are present, employee should not work; if no fever, or symptoms are present, require employees to self-monitor and report onset of symptoms during their shift
 - Employees should also self-monitor and stay at home if they have any COVID-like illness symptoms

Establish plans to provide adequate hand hygiene and sanitation for employees and patrons.

- Have all patrons and employees use hand sanitizer or wash their hands at the entrance to the facility upon arrival and departure and often throughout the day
- Provide soap, water, and alcohol-based hand rubs in multiple locations and routinely refill
- Routinely clean and disinfect bathrooms and locker room facilities including shower handles, rails, benches, lockers, etc.
- Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces such as tables, counters, desks, computers, door handles, lifeguard chairs, pool chairs, flotation devices, pool handrails, lifesaving equipment, etc.
- Identify how shared equipment will be disinfected after each user
- Launder all towels and other non-disposable items
- Establish no-touch procedures for purchase of incidentals
- Consider closing slides not directly exposed to the sun

Identify strategies for working with public health to notify patrons and employees if the facility learns someone who developed COVID-19 may have been infectious to others while at the facility.

- Identify strategies for addressing ill employees which should include requiring COVID-19 positive employees to stay at home while infectious and may include also restricting employees who were directly exposed to the COVID-19 positive employee, and the closure of the business until the location can be properly disinfected
- Make sure to maintain confidentiality of the COVID-19 infected person
- Develop plans for temporary closure of the facility to properly disinfect and ensure other employee and persons who frequent the facility are not infected
- Consult the local health district for guidance for specific situations as necessary

If the facility has an indoor pool, identify strategies to maintain physical distancing and the prevention of disease transmission. Strategies may include:

- Strictly monitor the use of the kiddie pool or other congregate areas of the pools to ensure physical distancing or consider prohibiting the use of the kiddie pool
- Close all slides not directly exposed to the sun
- Limiting the number of patrons in the pools
- Cancel swimming lessons that require the instructor to have physical contact with the patron

Resources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplace, Businesses, Schools and Homes: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guidance on Disinfecting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- Environmental Protection Agency list of COVID-19 effective disinfectants: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
- CDC's healthy swimming website for information to help prevent illness and drowning, and ensure safe use of swimming pools at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/index.html>
- CDC's operating public swimming pools <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/operating-public-swimming-pools.html>