

Phase Two Guidance for Public Swimming Pools and Splash Pads

As we continue to monitor COVID-19 in our community, the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) would like to share guidance from [A Community Strategy for Phased Reopening: Phase Two Amendment](#). This guidance should be followed by public swimming pool and splash pad operators during Phase Two, **beginning May 26, 2020**.

Five Core Principles of the Plan

- **Physical distancing** of at least 6 feet
- Wearing **cloth face coverings** when in public and when physical distancing of 6 ft. can't be achieved
- **Frequent and proper handwashing** with soap and water or hand sanitizer if hands are not visibly soiled
- **Cleaning surfaces** with soap and water or an approved disinfectant
- **Staying home** when sick or instructed to isolate/quarantine

Specific Guidance for Phase Two

- When outside of the water and 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained, employees and members must wear **cloth face coverings**.
- Wearing a cloth face covering while swimming or playing in a splash pad is **prohibited**.
- Employees and patrons should make all efforts to **maintain physical distancing** between members in different households while swimming, playing, etc.
- **Parents/guardians** must follow physical distancing and cloth face covering guidelines while supervising children and ensure that children are able to comply with applicable guidelines.
- Patrons should bring their **own towels**.
- When public pools, splash pads, beaches and other water venues are **required by law to provide a lifeguard**, they must be **staffed by an individual other than the lifeguard who shall be responsible for maintaining safety protocols and cleaning**.
- If public pools, splash pads, beaches and other water venues are **not required** to provide a lifeguard, they are **not required** to provide someone at the pool during hours of operation. The pool facilities must still be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- **Operators are responsible for** displaying signage about [physical distancing and cleaning of shared surfaces](#).
- **Limit occupancy**, as needed, to allow for the free movement of and maximizing physical distancing between patrons.
- **Modify layouts** of deck chairs and tables to allow for at least 6 feet of physical distancing at all times between patrons from different households.
- **Individual swim lessons and practices are permitted** when following the other guidelines. Please also review and follow the athletic guidelines on page 23 of the Phase Two guidance.
- **Encourage lap swimming** and consider other ways to reinforce physical distancing in the water and around the pool area.
- Operators are responsible for **having appropriate cleaning products** available for patrons to self-clean shared surfaces (chairs, tables, railings, etc.) before and after each use. Use cleaning products for aquatic venues to clean **frequently touched surfaces**, chairs and locker rooms.
- **Public whirlpools, hot tubs and other pools of similar type and usage** are not open except for use by one household at a time.
- **Playgrounds** near a public pool are **not open**.

Employee/Employer Guidance for Phase Two

- Screen all employees by asking the following questions: Have you been told to quarantine/isolate by a medical provider or the health department?; Have you had face-to-face contact for 10 or more minutes with someone who has COVID-19?; Are you feeling ill and/or experiencing any of the [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (regularly check the CDC website for an updated list)? **If yes, they should not enter the worksite and contact their doctor.**
- While it is preferred that **employers conduct daily employee temperature checks with a no-touch thermometer** before an employee enters the workplace, **employee daily temperature self-checks** are appropriate when a thermal thermometer is not available or daily employer checks are not practical. Communicate the policy with employees. **Daily temperature checks are a tool in your toolbox; they do not replace the need to follow other recommendations.**
- **Require any employee to quarantine/isolate** according to the guidance of their medical provider or the Knox County Health Department when the employee is:
 - **A positive case** for COVID-19; OR
 - Waiting for their **results of a COVID-19 test**; OR
 - **A close contact** of someone with COVID-19.
- **Do not allow symptomatic people to physically return to the workplace** until they are symptom-free and fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication or have been released from quarantine/isolation. **Employees should not be required to have a negative test to return to work.**
- **Consider implementing generous sick leave policies to encourage employees to report their illness and stay home.**
- **Maintain employee privacy by not unnecessarily sharing information with others about their illness.** Health information is protected by federal law.
Employees and patrons should wear a cloth face covering when outside of the water. More information on wearing cloth face coverings can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Follow the CDC's guidelines for [proper hand washing](#).
- Have a clear plan for cleaning protocols, including **disinfecting** and restocking of commonly used areas.
 - All restrooms, bath house or locker room area should be stocked and disinfected frequently.
 - Use [EPA approved disinfectants](#) and follow label directions for disinfections.
 - A chlorine bleach solution concentration of 1000 to 5000 ppm (5 to 25 tablespoons of household bleach per gallon of water) is an effective disinfectant.
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions and consult with your chemical provider before using any chemicals
- **Discourage employees** from using other employees' equipment, including phones, writing utensils. When not possible, hand sanitizer should be used both prior to use and immediately after.
- Consider strategies for **determining and tracking close contact interactions** between employees and patrons (for example, keeping a log of employee's shift pairings, daily member log, etc.). This will allow potential cases to be isolated quickly should an employee or member test positive for COVID-19.

Resources

CDC FAQs of COVID-19 and Water: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html>

CDC Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

CDC Healthy Swimming: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/>

This information is subject to change as new guidance and information becomes available from federal and state public health authorities.

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