



CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR RE-OPENING & OPERATING SWIMMING POOLS IN SHARED RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

BACKGROUND

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces. It is not likely spread through properly maintained and disinfected pool water. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

With summer, comes warmer weather, and the desire for communities to congregate around their community pools, including those in apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations. This can have the potential of increasing COVID-19 transmission. The below checklist describes the steps that owners and operators of swimming pools in residential settings (HOAs, apartments, mobile home parks, and condominiums) should take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by focusing on social distancing, sanitation, communication, and workplace practices.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available. Please visit www.vcemergency.com regularly for any updated changes to this document and for all other COVID-19 updates in Ventura County.

It is strongly recommended that all pool facilities covered by this guidance implement all applicable measures listed below. All indoor pools must remain closed at this time.

Social Distancing Protocol Recommendations for Swimming Pools in Shared Residential Settings

Measures to Ensure Social Distancing

- A monitored appointment/reservation system is recommended to limit use of the pool facility to a small number of household groups that live on the property at a time. The system should encourage members of the same household to use the facility at the same time and should ensure that household members always maintain 6 feet apart from members of other households.

Examples of appointment/calendar apps are [Google Calendar](#) and [Microsoft](#) with free [Office365](#). Please note these apps have not been tested by this Division.

- It is recommended that a designated onsite manager or other responsible person be responsible to ensure that all interim guidelines are adhered to daily.
- Tables, chairs, and loungers should be placed at least 6 feet apart, and any furniture that cannot be properly distanced should be stored/secured in a manner to prevent use.
- Large groups/pool parties should be prohibited. Pool area use should be limited to physical/therapeutic activities only.
- For those facilities that lack on-site restrooms for hand washing, provide hand sanitizer at a convenient location

Disinfection Protocol, Requirements, and Oversight

- Conduct a pool safety check to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection, and the pool has been evaluated for safety equipment (rescue pole with body hook and life ring).
 - Proper operation and maintenance should inactivate the novel coronavirus in the water.
- It is recommended that an [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) is frequently used to disinfect all handles/doorknobs, latches, pool/spa handrails, pool grab rails, ADA lifts, light switches, faucets, dispensers, tables, chairs, and countertops on the following schedule:
 - Gate handles, doorknobs, & fob readers: _____
 - All other latches, doorknobs/handles: _____
 - Handrails & grab rails: _____
 - ADA lifts: _____
 - Light switches: _____
 - Faucets, handles, & dispensers in restrooms: _____
 - Tables, chairs, countertops: _____
 - Other: _____: _____
- Facility should have adequate shared equipment for patrons, such as kickboards, pool noodles, float toys, water dumbbells, etc. to minimize sharing whenever possible. Consider limiting use

of the equipment to one patron at a time and disinfect the items after each use. Individuals should bring their own towels to the pool and not share with individuals from other households.

- Water slides should not be used.
 - No food or beverages are not recommended on pool decks with others, and household members should not share any food or beverages with non-household members.
 - Designate a person(s) to develop, implement, and enforce the sanitation/disinfection protocol for the pool facility.
 - Designate a person(s) to be responsible for monitoring restroom and changing facilities to ensure the facilities are fully stocked with toilet paper, soap, paper towels, and running water.
 - Frequency of stocking, cleaning, and disinfecting the restrooms and changing facilities should be increased based on the volume of the pool and pool use.
 - Restrooms and showers should be frequently disinfected, and restroom ventilation systems should be checked for proper operation.
 - Sanitizing/disinfection wipes should be provided for pool users to disinfect high-contact touchpoints before and after use.
 - Ventilation systems of indoor spaces should operate properly.
 - Consider increasing introduction of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. ***Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, residents, or swimmers.***
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Measures that Communicate to the Public

- Signage should be posted at each entrance into the facility informing all employees and pool users that they should:
 - Avoid entering the facility if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19;
 - Maintain a minimum 6-foot distance from one another;
 - Wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer upon entering into the facility; and
 - Do not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
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Measures to Protect Employee Health

- Employees who can carry out their work duties from home should be directed to do so.
- All employees should be told not to come to work sick.

- Symptom checks should be conducted before the employee enters the workspace. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, a cough, shortness of breath, fever, or others. Temperature checks should be conducted if feasible.
- All workstations should be separated by at least 6 feet.
- Employees should be allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- Soap & water and hand sanitizer should be available to employees.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees
- Lifeguards who are actively guarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of face coverings, or social distancing of others.
 - Designate another employee to monitor implementation of social distancing protocols. All employees should know who this person is and how to contact that person.
- Shifts should be staggered or rotated to limit the number of employees present at the facility at the same time.
- Breaks should be staggered to ensure that six (6) feet between employees are maintained in break rooms at all times.
- Employees should be prohibited from eating or drinking anywhere inside the workplace other than designated break rooms to assure that face coverings are worn consistently and correctly.
- Copies of this protocol should be distributed to all employees.
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the employer should have 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 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.
- All policies described in this checklist, other than those related to terms of employment, should be applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.

Measures that Ensure Equitable Access to Critical Services

- Services that are critical to residents/patrons should be prioritized.
 - Measures should be instituted to assure access to services for residents/patrons who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.
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General Restrictions

- Spray grounds or water features should not be used.
- Use of drinking fountains should be turned off. Users are encouraged to bring their own water in a non-glass container.

*Any additional measures not included here should be listed on separate pages, which the facility shall attach to this document.