



Guidance for Re-Opening During COVID-19 Recovery

Public Health Environmental Health Services

As we work towards recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, there are precautions swimming pool operators can take to safeguard pool users and employees from spreading the virus.

Public Swimming Pools and Spas



Checklist and Worksite Plan

- Complete and post the County of San Bernardino “Checklist for Re-opening of Public Swimming Pools.”
- Designate a person to be responsible for evaluating and implementing the measures in the checklist and in this guidance. Determine who will ensure that the measures are being followed.
 - For locations (such as HOA, apartments, and/or condominium pools) that do not have an onsite person designated to monitor the pool/pool area users, a system (e.g., reservation system, sign-up board, or signage with new limited capacity) should be in place to help ensure the number of persons in the pool area does not exceed the gathering limitation.
- Designate a person to be responsible for monitoring the restroom or changing rooms to ensure that the facilities have running water and are stocked with soap and paper towels.
- Increase the frequency of restroom and changing room cleaning and disinfection based on the volume of pool/pool area use.
- Restrooms and showers must remain open to allow access to pool users and must be frequently disinfected.



Clean and Disinfect



Pool Area

- Frequently clean and disinfect. For all pool facilities with oversight, it is recommended to create a written disinfection plan that identifies frequently touched surfaces, a cleaning schedule, and designated person to complete disinfection tasks. Refer to the [CDC Guidance for Disinfection](#) for more information. Areas that need to be disinfected include, but are not limited to:
 - Pool area: gate/door hand-activated hardware, lounge chairs, tables, handrails
 - Restrooms: door knobs, light switches, faucet handles, sinks, counters, toilets
 - Showers
 - Drinking fountain
 - Lockers
 - Other high-traffic surfaces

- All chairs and tables must be set up to maintain 6 feet of social distancing. Remove, store, or label unused tables and chairs to prevent use. Each facility must ensure that the spacing of the chairs and tables still provides a clear deck space of 4 feet around the pool and/or spa, as required by State law.
- Check pool enclosure is in good condition and gates/doors are self-closing and self-latching.
- Maintain safety equipment (i.e., body hook and life ring) accessible and in good condition.
- Ensure soap and paper towels are available in dispensers in restrooms.
- Facilities may allow the use of spray grounds and water features. If proper social distancing can't be maintained or monitored, then these features should be prohibited from use.





Health of Pool Users and Staff

- Educate staff on the most common **COVID-19 symptoms**. Have them stay home if they feel ill and/or exhibit any symptoms.
- Inform staff and pool users to:
 - Continue practicing social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart,
 - Wear a face covering when not in the water, and
 - Implement scheduled time slots for use on the busiest days to control the flow of users.



Safety Measures for Pool Users

Post signs that tells pool users to:

- Swim/sit only with members of their household and maintain a safe distance of 6 feet or greater from other pool/spa users.
- Wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid the pool area if they are experiencing symptoms of illness including a fever of 100°F or above, and/or any COVID-19 like symptoms.



Pool and Spa Equipment

- Verify pool light is mounted flush with the pool shell.
- Ensure the pump is working properly and that the timer is set to be “on” during times when the pool is available for use.
- Backwash filter, clean filter and verify filter pressure gauge accurately reflects the “start-up” pressure.
- Verify the required flowrate is being met by checking the flowmeter.
- Ensure chemical feeders (i.e. chlorine, muriatic acid) are properly functioning.
- Verify skimmers are functional and equipped with the required parts (i.e. basket, weir gate).
- Ensure all suction outlet covers are secure and in good condition.
- Check for leaks in pool/spa plumbing and equipment, and repair.
- Use of indoor pools and spas can be used if indoor ventilation systems are operating properly. In addition to the ventilation system, increasing the introduction and circulation of outdoor air by opening window and doors is recommended as long as this does not pose a safety risk to children, staff, or pool/pool area users.



Water Quality

Make sure that the:

- Water is maintained clean and clear,
- Free chlorine residual is maintained between 1.0 ppm - 10.0 ppm,
- pH is maintained between 7.2-7.8,
- Cyanuric acid is maintained below 100 ppm,
- Spa water temperature does not exceed 104°F, and
- Other water balance factors are considered: alkalinity, calcium hardness, total dissolved solids.



For More Information

For questions specific to swimming pools and spa operators:

**Call or text (800)442-2283
or visit**

wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/programs/ehs

For questions specific to COVID-19:

Email:

coronavirus@dph.sbcounty.gov

Call: (909) 387-3911

(Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

or visit:

sbcovid19.com

References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC):

[CDC.gov/coronavirus/water](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/water)

