

Protocols for Reopening of Swimming Pools in Shared Residential Facilities

Recent Updates:

5/27/20: Guests that do not reside in the apartment, condominium or homeowner's association are not allowed to use the pool facilities.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health is adopting a staged approach, supported by science and public health expertise, that is aligned with California's roadmap to allow the safe reopening of swimming pools located only at apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations.

All pool operators covered by this guidance must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available so be sure to check the LA County website <http://www.ph.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> regularly for any updates to this document.

This checklist covers:

- (1) Workplace policies and practices to protect employee health
- (2) Measures to ensure physical distancing
- (3) Measures to ensure infection control
- (4) Communication with employees and the public
- (5) Measures that ensure equitable access to critical services

These five key areas must be addressed as your facility develops any reopening protocols.

All businesses covered by this guidance must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the business.

Business name:

Facility Address:

Date Posted:

A. WORKPLACE POLICIES AND PRACTICES TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE HEALTH (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE FACILITY)

- Everyone who can carry out their work duties from home has been directed to do so.
- Vulnerable staff (those above age 65, those with chronic health conditions) are assigned work that can be done from home whenever possible.
- All employees have been told not to come to work if sick and to follow DPH guidance for self-isolation if applicable.
 - Create a roster of trained back-up employees.
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (case), the employer has 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 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.
- Symptom checks are conducted before employees may enter the workspace. Checks must include a check-in concerning cough, shortness of breath or fever and any other symptoms the employee may be experiencing. These checks can be done remotely or in person upon the employees' arrival. A temperature check should also be done at the worksite if feasible.
- All employees who have contact with the public or other employees during their shift (s) are offered, at no cost, a cloth face covering. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees are instructed to wash their face coverings daily.
 - Employees need not wear a cloth face covering when the employee is alone or when entering the water.**
- Lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth 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 are staggered or rotated to limit the number of employees present at the aquatic venue at the same time.
- Breaks are staggered to ensure that six (6) feet between employees can be maintained in break rooms at all times.
- Employees are prohibited from eating or drinking anywhere inside the workplace other than designated break rooms to assure that masks are worn consistently and correctly.
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):

- Hand sanitizer effective against COVID-19 is available to all employees at the following location(s):

- Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- A copy of this protocol has been distributed to each employee.
- All policies described in this checklist other than those related to terms of employment are applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.

- Optional – Describe other measures:
- _____

B. MEASURES TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Implement a monitored appointment system 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 household members to use the facility at the same time and should ensure that household members remain at least 6 feet apart from other households at all times when outside the water. Use of the pool is restricted to 25% maximum occupancy or 10 people at a time; whichever is smaller. Close the spa or limit use to 1 person or household at a time.
- It is recommended that a designated onsite manager or other responsible person be responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the maximum number of pool users, either on the pool deck, or in the swimming pool, as set forth above is not exceeded. The designated person should also be responsible to ensure that all interim guidelines are adhered to on a daily basis.
- Measures to ensure social distancing are adhered to. Changing deck layouts to ensure that in the standing and seating areas, individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart from those they do not live with them.
- Providing physical cues or guides (for example, lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and visual cues (for example, tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) and signs to ensure that residents and swimmers stay at least 6 feet apart from those they don't live with, both in and out of the water.
- Prohibit guests that are not residents of the apartment, condominium or homeowner's association from using the pool facilities.
- Prohibit parties or gatherings in all common areas including the pool.

C. MEASURES FOR INFECTION CONTROL

- Conduct a pool safety check to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection and that pool has been evaluated for safety equipment.
 - Proper operation and maintenance should inactivate virus in the water
- For facilities that have not been operating, flush each of the hot and cold-water fixtures for five minutes prior to reopening to replace stale water in the facility's plumbing with a fresh and safe water supply. This includes but is not limited to drinking fountains, decorative fountains, hot tubs, etc.
- Implement a cleaning and disinfection plan for frequently touched surfaces and for shared objects each time they are used. Use EPA approved disinfectant. The following will be cleaned and disinfected frequently, on the following schedule:
 - Handrails and slides _____
 - Lounge chairs, tabletops _____
 - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper changing stations and showers _____
 - Common-use facilities _____
 - Restrooms _____
 - Other _____

- Ensure adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues and trash cans that are available to the public.
- Set up a system so that furniture (e.g. lounge chairs) or other common-use items that need to be cleaned and disinfected are kept separate from already cleaned and disinfected furniture or other shared common-use items.
 - Ensure shared furniture, equipment, towels are protected from being contaminated before use.
- Individuals should bring their own towels to the pool and should not share towels with those outside of their household.
- No food or beverages can be distributed on pool decks with others and household members cannot share any food or beverages with non-household members.
- Water fountains or water coolers are shut off and may not be used.
- Ensure ventilation systems of indoor spaces operate properly.
- Increase introduction and circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. **However, do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, residents, or swimmers.**

D. MEASURES THAT COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC

- A copy of this protocol is posted at all public entrances to the pool facility.
- Signage at each public entrance of the pool facility is posted to inform pool users to stay home if they are ill or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Signage is posted that reminds pool users to maintain social distancing of six feet from non-household members to the extent possible.
 - Spa signage that limits the use of the pool to one person or household.
- Signage encouraging all residents and swimmers to wash their hands often or use sanitizer upon entry into the pool facility. Provide, or ask residents to bring a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Signage reminding swimmers to wear a face covering when traveling through common areas of the property, including to and from the pool and shared restrooms. **Remind swimmers to remove cloth face covering when entering water.**

E. MEASURES THAT ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

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

You can also find guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention for social distancing and facility/surface disinfection procedures at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>.