



AMADOR COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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## COVID-19

### GUIDELINES FOR DISTANCING AND SANITATION AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

Public swimming pools, wading pools and splash pads may reopen provided they are operated pursuant to the following guidance in addition to existing State Codes and Regulations governing the operation of public pools. Saunas, steam rooms, and spa pools are not approved to reopen at this time due to the impracticality of maintaining six-foot distance between patrons. Public pool operators shall implement applicable measures listed below and employees, volunteers and all other responsible parties shall be trained on this protocol and provided a copy for future reference.

#### **Supervision:**

Swimming pools shall only be allowed to open if there is a responsible adult on hand at all times that the pool is in use to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or social distancing, and to track attendance. Lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding should not also be expected to perform this role; assign this monitoring responsibility to another staff member. For pools without staff on hand, a sign in sheet should be maintained with a reminder that an adult must be present to monitor those within their household group.

A record of all pool patrons, indicating the date and time of arrival and departure, shall be retained for at least 30 days and, upon request, be made available to representatives of the Amador County Environmental Health or Public Health Departments. The purpose of this record is to help trace possible contacts in the event an employee, volunteer or patron is diagnosed with COVID-19.

#### **Signage:**

In addition to existing signage requirements, signs must be posted at each public entrance of the pool facility to inform employees and customers that they must not enter the facility or the pool if they are sick or have recently been exposed to someone with COVID-19, that social distancing must be maintained to the extent possible, recommend wearing cloth face masks where feasible (do not wear while in the water), practice good hand hygiene and to stay out of the sauna/spa/hot tub (if present).

#### **Health Protection Measures:**

All employees and volunteers shall be instructed not to come to work if sick. Monitor for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 at the beginning of each shift (such as fever/chills, new/worse cough, new loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, sore throat, headache, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea). Sick employees with symptoms associated with COVID-19 should stay home for at least 10 days after onset of symptoms and for

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72 hours after cessation of fever without the use of fever-reducing medication, or until released to return to work by a medical provider.

If possible, ensure that soap, warm water, and single use paper towels are well stocked and available to everyone at the pool. Where this is not feasible, provide hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for use by all.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used. For example:

- Handrails, slides, and structures for climbing or playing
- Lounge chairs, tabletops, pool noodles, and kickboards
- Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper-changing stations, and showers

Consult with the company or engineer that designed the aquatic venue to decide which List N disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are best for your aquatic venue.

Discourage people from sharing items, particularly those that are difficult to clean and disinfect or those that are meant to come in contact with the face (e.g., goggles, nose clips, and snorkels). Ensure that the facility has adequate equipment for patrons, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, to minimize sharing wherever possible. Limit the use of the equipment to one patron at a time and clean and disinfect the items after each use.

Label containers for used equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected and containers for cleaned and disinfected equipment. Launder towels and clothing according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely. Protect shared furniture, equipment, towels, and clothing that has been cleaned and disinfected from becoming contaminated before use. Ensure safe and correct use and storage of disinfectants, including storing products securely away from children.

**Measures to Encourage Social Distancing:**

Observe six foot spacing as much as practicable. Use of cloth face coverings is highly recommended when six foot distancing is not feasible. Consider implementing reservations for pool use or implementing other mechanisms to support physical distancing. Limit the number of bathers in the pool facility at any one time to one-half the normally posted capacity to allow for patrons maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times. Post this new capacity over the existing capacity sign as a guide for patrons. A responsible adult shall be in a position with clear view of the enclosed pool area at all times while the pool is in use in order to monitor that the maximum number of bathers is not exceeded and that social distancing is maintained.

Place tape or other markings at least 6 feet apart in bather line areas or any other area in the pool where bathers congregate. Change the deck layout and other areas surrounding the pool to ensure that the standing and seating areas can support physical distancing requirements. This could include removing lounge chairs or taping off areas to discourage use.

Keep spas closed until the Executive Order has been fully lifted. If the pool and spa share the same enclosure, clearly indicate that the spa is closed (caution tape, cones, signs, etc). If the spa remains filled, maintain the water quality as though it were in use so as not to create nuisance conditions.

If locker rooms and/or congregate shower rooms exist, they must be managed so as to maximize the ability to maintain six-foot spacing via the use of floor markings, limiting the number of patrons who may access the area at any given time or by other methods that accomplish the same practical effect. These areas, if used, must be cleaned and sanitized at least once every two hours. As an alternative, these areas can be closed to the public.