DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

COVID-19 Guidance:
Reopening Phase for Public and Community Swimming Pools

The State of Delaware will lift restrictions on community pools starting at 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2020, subject to strict social distancing requirements and other restrictions. Community pools in Delaware may reopen at 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, but are limited to 20% of regular capacity. Swim lessons or practices of swim teams are not permitted at this time.

Public swimming pools regulated by the Division of Public Health (DPH), as well as community pools that operate as private pools by DPH definition, must comply with these requirements. Private pools at single-family homes are not covered by this guidance.

Public Swimming Pools:

- A written plan documenting how high touch surfaces will be properly disinfected, along with a schedule of when disinfection will occur and who is designated to perform the disinfection, must be created by the pool operator. This must be available upon request from DPH either remotely or during on-site inspection.
- All high touch surfaces should be disinfected every 15 minutes to two hours. Use an EPA-approved disinfectant for high touch surfaces:
    - Swimming pool area – entrance gate, handle, tables, chairs, all pool handrails, including slides, and drinking fountains
    - Restroom and storage area – dressing room, wall lockers, benches, door handles, flush handle, faucets, light switches, and paper towel dispensers
- Lower pool (deck area and water) occupancy to reduce crowding and to maintain 6 feet separation in and out of pool:
    - Indoor Pools – total not to exceed 20% of fire capacity
    - Outdoor pool – 20% of the normal operating limits as determined by bather load.
- Lifeguards or other staff tasked with enforcing COVID-19 guidance must be on pool deck during all operating hours.
- Smaller facilities can opt to monitor pool once per two hours in lieu of staging staff at pool but must also reduce overall pool capacity to less than 10.
- Aquatic classes are permitted if participants can maintain distance and any shared equipment is disinfected after use.
- Swim lessons and swim team gatherings are not allowed at this time.
- Management must ensure employee health monitoring and documentation for COVID-19.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation inside and outside of the pool from others not within family or party.
- Recommend face covering when not swimming and when unable to maintain 6 feet distancing. Children age 2 years or younger must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation. Face coverings are not required for children age 12 years or younger.
- Bathers should review signs and symptoms of COVID-19 before heading to the pool. They should be advised to not enter the pool area if they are experiencing symptoms.
- Encourage all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash hands often and cover their coughs or sneezes.
- Have hand sanitizers available for employees.
- Post signage instructing employees and swimmers about maintaining 6 feet distance, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes and to stay home if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.