### Operating Requirements for Outdoor Public Pools During COVID-19

Outdoor swimming pool facilities can be used for **exercise purposes only**. Outdoor swimming pool facilities may safely reopen while maintaining social distancing and operational best practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, utilizing the following guidance:

#### Disinfection Plan and Oversight

- Complete, post on site and train all employees on Social Distancing Protocol (Appendix A), as required by the Industry-Specific Guidance (Appendix E) of the Sonoma County Health Order C19-14.
- Complete the Safe Re-opening Plan for Outdoor Pools and train all employees on the procedures.
- Designate a person to be responsible for evaluating and implementing the measures in the Plan and in this guidance document. Determine who will ensure that the measures are being followed.
- Designate a person to be responsible for monitoring the restrooms to ensure that the facilities are stocked with soap and paper towels, and have running water.
- Increase the frequency of restroom cleaning and disinfection based on the volume of pool/pool area use. The use of indoor locker rooms and changing areas is prohibited.
- Restrooms must remain open to allow access by pool/pool area users, and must be frequently disinfected.

#### Disinfection Requirements

- Frequently disinfect common touch points, such as chairs, tables, entry/exit gate and door handles, pool and spa handrails, restroom facilities, shower water faucet handles, and any other common touch points, using a **disinfectant that is EPA approved and effective against Coronavirus**. If pool facilities are in continuous use, hourly disinfection is required. For less frequently used pool facilities, disinfection between users is required.
- At locations with no onsite person to monitor disinfection efforts, provide disinfection wipes that the pool/pool area users can use to disinfect common touchpoints before and after use.

#### Social Distancing

- All chairs and tables must be set up to maintain 6 foot 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.
- Use of outdoor pool facilities is limited to lap swimming, fitness activities, physical therapy and/or exercise. Sun bathing, picnicking, and other similar activities are prohibited.
- All social distancing protocol implementation is required while exercising in the pool.
**Limit Users**

- Ensure proper social distancing is maintained by all pool and spa users that are not part of the same household. The number of persons on the pool deck and in the pool/spa must be limited to ensure six feet of social distancing is always maintained.
- Restrooms should be monitored to ensure that the number of people inside at one time allows for proper social distancing. Indoor locker rooms and changing areas are not allowed.
- For locations that do not have an onsite person designated to monitor the pool/pool area users (such as HOA/apartments/condominium pools), a system should be in place to help ensure the number of persons in the pool area does not exceed the gathering limitation (ex. reservation system, sign-up board, or signage with new limited capacity).

**General Requirements**

- The use of water play areas (e.g. spray grounds, water features, water slides) is prohibited.
- The use of indoor pools and spas is prohibited.
- Drinking fountains should be covered to prevent usage. Individuals can bring their own water in a non-glass container if beverages are allowed in pool/spa area.
- Limit outdoor spa use to one household at a time or ensure social distancing of 6 feet is met. Indoor spa use is prohibited.
- If instruction is provided, instructors must teach from the pool deck.

**Resources**

Information regarding COVID-19: [https://socoemergency.org/](https://socoemergency.org/)


For questions regarding public swimming pool operations, please contact Sonoma County Environmental Health at (707) 565-6565 or via email at EH@sonoma-county.org