

COVID-19: Guidance for Outdoor Public Pool Facilities from the Wyoming Department of Health

August 1, 2020

Background

Outdoor Public Pool Facilities are not explicitly covered by the existing statewide public health orders. Outdoor public pools should follow the provisions for event venues in paragraph 5 of Statewide Public Health Order #2: Gatherings of More than Fifty (50) People.

A copy of the current statewide orders can be found at: <https://covid19.wyo.gov/>.

General Guidance

The Wyoming Department of Health provides the following COVID-19 practices for public pool facilities, as outlined in the current orders.

1. Facilities should consider and develop policies/practices that promote distancing between groups of customers of more than six (6) feet. Capacity within the pool facility should be limited to allow for appropriate distancing.
 - a. Each pool operator should determine the maximum capacity in the pool area that allows for social distancing based on the specific characteristics of that pool area. Pool operators can consider limiting normal capacity to a reduced percentage (such as limiting to 50% capacity) or to a number of persons per square foot. For example, allowing one person per 113 square feet allows a 6 foot radius around each individual, or 12 feet of separation between each individual. Likely one person per 50-100 square feet is appropriate for outdoor pools.
 - b. The maximum number of people that can be in a pool area at any one time is currently limited to 250 persons. An exception request must be submitted through the County Public Health Office to allow more than 250 people.
2. Groups of customers swimming or sitting together around the pool must be limited to six (6), preferably of the same household, unless the members of one household exceed that number.
3. A six (6) foot distance should be maintained between individual groups at all times, including in waiting areas, locker rooms, and in and around the pool.
4. Consider limiting the amount of time customers can stay at the facility to increase the number of customers that can use the facility each day. Facilities should consider designating blocks of time that are available for customers each day. For example, facilities may offer 2 hour blocks of time for visits to the facility each day. Requiring reservations may assist facilities and patrons in not exceeding capacity limits.
5. Between each block of time for visits to the facilities there should be 20 to 30 minutes provided for entering and exiting customers and time for sanitization of the pool area by staff.
6. Close contact between members of different household groups should be avoided before, during, and after each reserved time slot.
7. Facilities should post signage reminding customers to remain at least six (6) feet apart from other groups of people. Templates for signage can be found on CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs-11x17-en.pdf>
8. Staff must wear face coverings when they are within 6 feet of customers or other staff. Staff should not wear face coverings when in the pool.



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9. Staff must perform hand hygiene (washing well for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or using a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol) between interactions with each customer or party.
10. Customers should be encouraged to wear face coverings to the greatest extent possible. Those who are swimming should not wear face coverings.
11. Employees must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19, or exposure to an individual with COVID-19, prior to each shift. See the screening guidance for businesses [here](#).
 - a. Employees who are ill must not be allowed to work.
 - b. Employees who have been exposed to COVID-19 within the previous fourteen (14) days must not be allowed to work.
 - c. Employee logs of the screening activity must be kept and made available for inspection by the local health officer.
 - d. Establishment must maintain a record of staff working hours by date and time for contact-tracing purposes.
 - i. If records are maintained manually, sanitize the instruments used for recordkeeping in between use.
12. Hand sanitizer must be made available at the entrance and immediately next to all bathrooms.
13. The facility must be thoroughly cleaned prior to opening, after closing, and in between reservation blocks.
 - a. All countertops, seating, handrails, pool ladders, drink dispensing equipment and water fountains, light switches, telephones, emergency shut-off buttons and dials for spa jets, keyless entry readers and lock boxes, bathrooms, and any high-touch surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines for cleaning found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>.
14. All rental equipment should be disinfected after each use. Facilities should discourage or prohibit anyone from sharing equipment like goggles or snorkels without proper decontamination between use.
15. Establishment should encourage contactless and non-signature payment methods.
 - a. If not possible for all customers, card and payment stations must be sanitized after each use.
 - b. Staff must sanitize hands between handling payment options.
16. Food service must follow the provisions for restaurants (see Restaurant Guidance found at [here](#)).

More resources from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for businesses and employers can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

For more information about the COVID-19 outbreak please visit: health.wyo.gov or cdc.gov.

