

Guidance for Aquatic Facilities

This document is meant to serve as a resource for aquatic facilities as we transition to local authority beginning May 1. Below is a list of the new requirements and a list of recommendations (best practices) for all aquatic facilities. Please note that this document is specific to COVID-19. The requirements outlined in the Southern Nevada Health District Aquatic Facility Regulations remain in place.

ALL aquatic venues (including permitted hot tubs and spas) that are permitted by the Health District can operate at 80% capacity OR 3 feet of social distance between patrons, whichever is more restrictive.

MANDATES/REQUIREMENTS

- Reduce area capacity to 80% of assigned fire code capacity, or a capacity that can support 3 feet of social distance between patrons (whichever is more restrictive). This includes the deck area as well as the aquatic venue itself.
- Require all employees and patrons to wear face coverings, except for lifeguards conducting bather surveillance and patrons when:
 - in an aquatic venue,
 - moving directly between their seating and an aquatic venue, or
 - actively eating or drinking.
- Clean and disinfect restrooms and high-touch surfaces daily.
- Shared objects such as goggles, snorkels, and nose clips are prohibited.
- Shared equipment/ toys such as floating devices and life jackets must be cleaned and disinfected between users.

RECOMMENDATIONS/BEST PRACTICES

- Post COVID-19 signage of symptoms, proper use of face coverings, and social distancing.
- Arrange deck furniture to encourage 3 feet of social distance for individuals from separate households.

- Provide touchless (when possible) hand sanitizer dispensers at entrance, customer restrooms, and high-contact areas in the facility.
- Strongly encourage patrons to utilize drinking fountains to refill personal beverage receptacles rather than for direct consumption (this can be accomplished with signage)
- Use an [Employee Screening Questionnaire](#) for COVID-19 symptoms at the beginning of each person's shift.
- Designate lanes of travel for patrons through the facility to avoid grouping of patrons around entrances and exits.

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER COVID-19 CONTROLS

- You can sign up to receive updates to this document at www.snhd.info/reopen.
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Healthy Swimming/Recreational Water | Healthy Swimming | Healthy Water | CDC](#)
- [Guidance for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19 | CDC](#)

Aquatic Health FAQ

Related to COVID-19 Operating Procedures

If I choose to leave my pool and or spa closed, can I turn the circulation system off?

No, minimum water quality standards must be maintained to prevent public health or nuisance conditions from developing.

When can we use our hot tub/spa?

Permitted spas may be placed back into use as long as 3 feet of social distancing is maintained between people from separate households. If a spa is not large enough to accommodate 2 people with 3 feet of separation, then use will be limited to one person at a time or use by individuals from a single household at one time.

How do I open my pool if I have a spa in the same enclosure and choose to keep it closed? How can I effectively designate that my spa is closed?

Spas that are not intended for use need to be kept closed and clearly designated as such. This can be simply accomplished by placing an X over the top of the spa with caution tape or roping off the spa with cones etc., disabling the jet pump and turning off the heater.

Can the water fountain at the aquatic facility be used and available to bathers?

Yes, if its high-touch surfaces are cleaned daily. We recommend that drinking fountains be used to refill water containers rather than having people drink water directly from them. Posting signage to encourage this behavior is encouraged.

Do I need to maintain access to the restroom facilities?

Yes, if your aquatic venue was constructed with restroom facilities, they must be maintained open, in good repair and stocked for use when the pool or spa is available for use.

How often do I need to clean and disinfect high touch surfaces and restroom areas?

At least once daily.

Do I need to rope off my deck showers?

No, rinse showers are not part of the directive and can remain in use. The idea is that bathers need to come dressed to use the facility. Rinse showers do not impact this behavior and still may reduce the spread of disease in pools, so they are encouraged to be used.

Do I need to install hand sanitizer dispensers at my pool area?

No, they are not required to be installed.

Can we utilize deck furniture in our pool area, and what are the cleaning requirements?

Deck furniture may be utilized and need not be disinfected between each patron.

Do I need to mark off spots 3 feet apart inside the aquatic venue to facilitate proper social distancing?

No, it is anticipated that people will be moving around when in the aquatic venue. Distancing will be best accomplished through limited capacity inside the aquatic venue. Clearly identifying the maximum number of patrons that may enter the water at one time will greatly assist with compliance in this area.

It is recommended to mark off 3-foot areas around your spa perimeter if it is large enough to accommodate more than two people from separate households.

It is strongly encouraged to arrange deck furniture 3 feet apart, as this will also assist patrons in complying with the social distancing requirement.

How much do I need to reduce the total capacity in my pool enclosure and my pool?

The total capacity may not exceed 80% of the fire code designation for total area capacity, but the greater limiting factor is how many people can fit into the area while maintaining 3 feet of social distancing both inside and outside of the water.

What methods can be used to facilitate social distancing in a pool?

Do not allow lane sharing in lap pools, and designate swimming areas verses standing/play areas. Set up exercise classes to establish proper spacing between participants.

If our residents or guests refuse to follow social distancing and/or mask guidelines, what should we do?

Close the pool area. Social distancing and proper use of masks are key components to reducing the spread of this disease, especially with the number of asymptomatic carriers that have been identified.

When and where are masks required at an aquatic facility?

Masks are required to be worn by all staff and patrons in an aquatic facility with the exception of lifeguards on duty assigned the task of bather surveillance in the pool, patrons in an aquatic venue and patrons moving between their seating area directly to or from the aquatic venue.

Do we need to contract with a professional cleaning company to disinfect our restrooms daily?

No. While disinfecting restroom surfaces daily is a requirement that coincides with the current Southern Nevada Health District Aquatic Facility Regulations, there is nothing in the regulations that dictates who is responsible for completing that task. If your organization would like to solicit volunteers to accomplish this cleaning schedule, that is perfectly acceptable.

What disinfectants should be used to clean the restroom?

Any disinfectant used should be on the [EPA List N](#). The directions on the label must be followed including the amount of time that the product must remain on the surface.

Does my pool need to have a security guard or some type of person onsite to oversee that the Governor's rules are applied to open and operate this year?

No. No additional personnel are required to operate your facility this year from any other pool season if you have an aquatic venue associated with a HOA or an apartment complex.

Do I need a lifeguard for the pool at my apartment complex?

Only if you needed a lifeguard previously.

Do I need to be inspected prior to opening?

No, you may open without first receiving an inspection unless the last inspection report explicitly states that you must pass a full inspection prior to reopening.

What additional COVID-19 signage do we need to post?

The reduced capacity that is in response to the COVID-19 reopening guidelines with the 80% reduction in consideration of what can be practically accommodated while following social distancing protocols must be posted either at the entrance to the venue or where it is clearly visible to those using the facility. It is recommended that you post signage encouraging 3 ft. social distancing, staying home if you have symptoms, and wearing a face covering — all of which can be found at www.snhd.info/reopen#posters.

My HOA, Management Company, Apartment Complex... refuses to open the pool, what are my options?

The Health District cannot require any facility to open their aquatic venue for use but does require that an open venue meet minimum safety and sanitation requirements. The only requirement for a closed aquatic venue is that the barrier be maintained sound and the venue be maintained free from nuisance conditions.

My permit says it expires June 30, 2021 – what do I do?

Our permits always run on the fiscal year July 1–June 30. You will receive a bill at the end of June or early July. Pay the invoice and you may print your updated permit(s) from our [website](http://www.snhd.info) by entering the invoice number.



How will I know if these guidance documents are changed?

You can visit www.snhd.info/reopen and provide your e-mail address to receive updates when the documents on that page are updated. The documents you find on that page are ones that were developed by the Health District and are updated when new information becomes available.

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