



OUTDOOR AQUATIC FACILITIES

Outdoor public aquatic facilities, outdoor swimming pools, fill and drain paddling pools, and spray/splash parks must follow all requirements in the current public health order, as well as the following guidelines. Only outdoor swimming pools, outdoor water slides and outdoor spray parks are will be permitted to open in the first part of Phase 4 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.

These guidelines apply to all outdoor public swimming pools, including those operated by hotels and motels. All public swimming pools must be operated in a safe manner and are subject to *The Swimming Pool Regulations, 1999* and The Saskatchewan Swimming Pool Design/Operational Standards.

Guidelines for General Operation

- Staff and members of the public who are sick or symptomatic must stay home. Review employee illness policies to support staff that need to stay home when ill.
- Proper and frequent hand hygiene by public and staff is a vital component in preventing the transmission of illnesses. Public and staff must wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada (DIN or NPN number). Avoiding touching your face, mouth, nose and eyes.
- Facilities must post signage to inform the public about COVID-19 precautions and restrictions.
- Public and staff, with the exception of household and extended household contacts, must maintain a minimum physical distance of two metres in all areas, including the swimming pool(s).
- Physical barriers and directional flow markings should be located throughout the facility, including change rooms and pool deck areas.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection is required in public and staff areas, including, but not limited to, change rooms, door handles/knobs, floatation aids, handrails, light switches, payment devices, play structures, shared workstations, shower areas, slides, tables and toys. Refer to the [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Guidelines](#) for further information.
- Towels and other linens provided by the facility must be laundered and dried on the highest possible temperature setting.
- Patrons must remove face masks prior to entering the pool.
- Children should be accompanied by an adult to ensure compliance with physical distancing.
- All swimmers must take a cleansing shower prior to entering the swimming pool.

Information for Facility Operators

- Aquatic facilities must contact their local Saskatchewan Health Authority Public Health Inspection Office prior to opening to the public.
- Aquatic facilities, with the exception of spray parks, are limited to a maximum of 100 people as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Whirlpools/hot tubs may need to be closed if physical distancing is not possible. Saunas and steam rooms must remain closed at this time.
- Facilities are encouraged to use booking systems to manage public admission. During transactions, if possible, limit the exchange of papers such as receipts. Where possible, payments should be accepted through contactless methods (e.g. tap or e-transfer).
- Facilities must not schedule competitive swim meets or other group events at this time. See the Classes, Swimming Lessons and Training section for exceptions.
- For general workplace guidelines, please refer to the [COVID-19 Workplace Information](#). All businesses operating in Saskatchewan must be in compliance with these guidelines.
- Mechanical ventilations systems must be operating properly in all indoor facilities.

Lifeguarding and Supervision

- Facility operators shall review first aid and lifesaving procedures in their current safety plans, which must be made available to public health inspectors upon request.
- Staff training is required for any new COVID-19-specific first aid and lifesaving procedures.
- Facility operators can contact the Life Saving Society and/or Red Cross to obtain additional resources for lifeguards specific to COVID-19.
- Lifeguards need to focus on the health and safety of swimmers in a facility. Therefore, they should not be required to enforce public health measures such as physical distancing and occupancy. Facilities will need to ensure there are sufficient staff to monitor compliance with these guidelines.

Diving Boards, Slides, Play Structures, Toys and Floatation Aids

- Diving boards, slides and play structures such as climbing walls are permitted, but they are subject to enhanced cleaning and disinfection, as well as physical distancing requirements. Active supervision may be required to ensure compliance.
- Floatation aids, such as flutter boards, life jackets, noodles and other items, are permitted subject to enhanced cleaning and disinfection. Usage is at the

discretion of the facility. These items must not be shared between non-household contacts.

- Toys and other objects are subject to the same requirements as floatation aids. Facilities may choose not to allow toys at this time.

Change Rooms

- Wherever possible, members of the public should enter and exit the facility in their swim clothes to minimize crowding in change room areas.
- Reduce the number of lockers available to coincide with the capacity of the facility to reduce cleaning and disinfection demands.
- Ensure an adequate supply of soap is provided for washroom and shower facilities.

Seating Areas

- Seating areas are permitted on the pool deck, but are subject to the physical distancing requirements of two metres and enhanced cleaning and disinfection. Facilities may choose to close off seating areas or reduce the amount of seating available.

Classes, Swimming Lessons and Training

- Group activities, such as swimming lessons, fitness classes and competitive swim team training, must be scheduled outside of public swim times.
- Swimming lessons should be postponed unless facility operators are able to maintain physical distancing and avoid physical contact.
- Training/instruction activities that promote grouping, such as instructions at whiteboards, deck side demonstrations, etc., must be done in a way to ensure physical distancing.
- Swimmers should arrive as close to the start time as possible and exit the facility immediately after practice/lessons are over to reduce the number of people gathering in a facility.
- Competitive swim meets and other competitive events must be canceled until further notice.
- Coaches and training staff must maintain physical distancing.
- Team workouts and other fitness activities on the pool deck or in another area of the facility may be subject to fitness facility guidelines in the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.
- Team members must avoid physical contact where possible, such as high-fives, etc.
- Lane swimming activities must be altered to ensure physical distancing between swimmers. For instance, one-way swimming is encouraged where swimmers use the adjacent lane to return.

- Lifeguard courses and training are permitted subject to the gathering and physical distancing restrictions.

Splash Pads, Fill and Drain Paddling Pools

- Water features must be flushed thoroughly prior to re-opening to remove stagnant water.
- Group sizes must comply with the public gathering restrictions.
- Anyone using splash pad facilities must practice proper hand hygiene.
- Children should be supervised at all times by a parent or guardian, and reminded not to touch or contact others.
- Reduce physical contact with spray features wherever possible. For instance, consider using spray features that do not require physical interaction to activate (i.e. pressing buttons, switches).
- Signage must be posted at splash pads to caution about the risks of COVID-19, as well as educate users in following the guidelines. Signage should include the following reminders:
 - Individuals who are sick should stay home.
 - A physical distance of two metres should be maintained between people not from the same household or extended household.
 - Individuals should wash their hands before and after using the facility.
 - Avoid overcrowding. Individual groups must not exceed the restrictions on public gatherings.
- Fill and drain paddling pools should be closed at this time unless supervision is provided.

Food Services

- Food services are permitted subject to the [Restaurants and Licensed Establishments Guidelines](#).