

A Note to Parents and Candidates seeking Lifesaving Society Courses

April 9, 2021

As the 2021 summer pool season quickly approaches, we recognize that many people across the province are searching for advanced courses such as Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross, National Lifeguard, Lifesaving Instructor, Standard First Aid, and recertifications.

The mandatory three-month closure of swimming pools last March, in addition to many facilities choosing not to open last summer, has led to an intensified need of advanced course opportunities across the province.

The Lifesaving Society Branch would like to remind everyone that pool owners/operators (i.e., municipalities, regional parks, YMCAs, etc.) are trying their very best to offer courses for the public as well as their own staff. But, like every other industry in the province, there are COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines that must be followed.

Under the provincial government's COVID-19 restrictions for aquatics, pool owners/operators can allow minimal capacity of people into their facilities. This results in a small number of participants that can be allowed into one course and into the pool facility. In addition to the minimal capacity, lifesaving and lifeguarding course trainers must also navigate how to provide rescue and first aid training that still meets the level of competency required.

The COVID-19 restrictions are put in place for a reason: to keep everyone safe. This includes not only the public but our aquatic staffs as well; many of whom are in the age category that is most at risk from the most recent COVID-19 variants.

With all of this in mind, we ask for your patience and understanding when calling or emailing either the Lifesaving Society Branch Office or any of the swimming pool facilities in the province to inquire about advanced courses. The Branch, along with the many pool owners/operators, are working together to provide as much training as possible under the circumstances.

Thank you again for your understanding.

Shelby

Shelby Rushton

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