

RLC Restaurant & Entertainment Task Force

Sub Working Group for Aquatics

5/27/2020 Report

Aquatics Sub Working Group Members

Rob Dowie

President at SELA Aquatics

Colleen Barczyk

Owner at City of Lafayette Aquatics

Richard Guidry

LA Manager at Poolsure

Dave Geyer

Head Swim Coach at LSU

Charlotte Boswell

Owner at Safewater Management

Areas Reviewed by the Sub Working Group

Lap Swimming & Swim Teams

Water Aerobics & Water Therapy

Swim Lessons & Learn-to-Swim Programs

Organized Recreational Swim

Open/Play Swim (Congregate Swimming)

Not reviewed (yet): Water playgrounds/splash pads and Water Parks

Method for Review:

Johns Hopkins
“Public Health
Principles for a
Phased Reopening
During COVID-19:
Guidance for
Governors”

Main Areas for Consideration:

1. Contact Intensity
2. Number of Contacts
3. Modification Potential

General Guidelines for All Aquatic Venues and Programs

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 the following universal actions are required for aquatic venues:

- Swimmers arrive and leave in swimsuits
- No shared equipment (pool toys, towels, goggles, personal flotation devices, etc)
- Clean shared spaces such as restrooms, touch points, chairs, tables, and other pool furniture
- Plan organized times with gaps to minimize traffic and allow for cleaning
- Organize and control deck space

CDC: Properly Treated Water is Safe and Doesn't Spread the Virus

Proper treatment defined:

To ensure proper water quality and a safe swimming environment, aquatic venues should follow [CDC guidance](#), which includes:

- Free chlorine between 1–10ppm
- pH level between 7.2–7.8
- CYA less than 90 (per CDC Model Aquatic Health Code)
- Test pH and disinfectant levels regularly
- Maintain accurate records of disinfectant/pH measurements and maintenance activities.
- Maintain filtration and recirculation systems according to manufacturer recommendations.

Lap Swimming & Swim Teams

Contact Intensity: Low

Number of Contacts: Low

Modification Potential: High

Policy Recommendation:

Continue to allow lap swimming to occur while requiring physical distancing in the water and on deck. Consider assigning a lane capacity to help regulate lane spacing.

Water Aerobics & Water Therapy

Contact Intensity: Low

Number of Contacts: Low

Modification Potential: High

Policy Recommendation: Allow water aerobics and water therapy to occur while requiring physical distancing in the water and on deck.

Private / Semi-Private & Household Swim Lessons

Contact Intensity: High

Number of Contacts: Low

Modification Potential: High

Policy Recommendation: Allow beginner swim lessons in either private (1:1), semi-private (2-3:1), or same household groups, provided the in-water instructor can properly protect their face using face shields and strong organization controls are in place.

Group Swim Lessons

Contact Intensity: High

Number of Contacts: Medium

Modification Potential: Medium

Policy Recommendation: Group swim lessons (more than 3 students in a group) should be avoided until further social distancing guidelines are relaxed.

Advanced Swim Lessons

Contact Intensity: Low

Number of Contacts: Low

Modification Potential: High

Note: Consider these lessons to be consistent with swim team and lap swim. Follow the same guidance for lap swimming. The instructor should avoid contact and practice physical distancing on deck and in the water.

Organized Recreational Swimming

Contact Intensity: Medium

Number of Contacts: Low

Modification Potential: High

The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) and the CDC emphasize the following key points in reopening recreational pools:

- Signage
- Access Control
- Staffing
- Cleaning/Sanitization

Pool Chemicals/Maintenance

Organized Recreational Swimming

Signage

Capacity load of the pool area

Social distancing rules

Location of hand sanitizing stations

Other information from the CDC for business to
reopen

Organized Recreational Swimming

Access Control

Spacing in check-in / payment area

Designated entry point to control capacity

Designate a crowd manager (CDC guidelines say this should NOT be a lifeguard)

All minors accompanied by adults

Avoid drop offs of kids and teens

Where possible, use a reservation system with pre-assigned time blocks. This will likely be easier at private/HOA facilities.

Organized Recreational Swimming

Staffing

Consider extra staffing:

- Actively ensure patron compliance (crowd manager)
- Cleaning
- All aquatics staff should be provided with appropriate PPE
- Special PPE may be necessary for lifeguard use during a rescue:
 - Viral filter
 - BVM instead of face mask
 - Eye protection

Organized Recreational Swimming

Conclusion: Part 1

Policy Recommendation: Begin reopening recreational pools, but only with distancing policies and crowd managers in place. Facilities that cannot control crowds, enforce mitigation, or without a designated crowd manager should remain closed. To open, facilities should have adequate signage, access control, staffing, and cleaning/maintenance protocols in place before opening. To allow for adequate spacing in the event of a required pool evacuation (e.g., closure due to lightning, thunder, or in-water fecal release), total facility capacity at all times shall not exceed 1 individual per 200 square feet of deck space within the pool gates. Pool surface area shall not be considered when determining available deck space. All persons within the pool gates, including staff, must be counted towards occupancy.

Organized Recreational Swimming

Conclusion: Part 2

Policy Recommendation: State government should consider limiting access to aquatic venues to adults and minors accompanied by an adult who must remain inside the aquatic facility at all times. The state should consider limiting or prohibiting special group visits such as birthday parties, camps, and special events, as these events tend to increase contact intensity, increase the number of contacts, and lower management's modification potential. The state should consider prohibiting the consumption of alcohol at aquatic facilities.

Open Swim/Play Swim (Congregate Swimming)

Contact Intensity: Medium

Number of Contacts: Medium

Modification Potential: Low

Due to the uncontrolled nature of congregate swimming, this working group is not ready to recommend an uncontrolled reopening of commercial swimming pools.

Factors:

- Absence of crowd managers
- While the water itself is not unsafe, the pool facility and deck could pose an issue.
- No active supervision or control of capacity
- No cleaning
- Who is ensuring proper water quality?

Resources

CDC Healthy Swimming:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/index.html>

CDC: Aquatic Venue Considerations During COVID-19:

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

Johns Hopkins “Public Health Principles for a phased reopening during Covid-19: Guidance for Governors”:

https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/200417-reopening-guidance-governors.pdf

Pool and Hot Tub Alliance Guidance (PHTA):

<https://iapra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PHTA-Opening-recommendations-May-2020.pdf>

USA Swimming Guidance:

https://www.usaswimming.org/docs/default-source/coaching-resourcesdocuments/covid-19-team-resources/facility-reopening-plan-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=8a533a32_2