

## Reopening of Public Swimming Pool and Aquatic Facilities MDH

### MDH Guidance

### Spring Lake Park Swim Facility Compliance

1	<b>BEFORE REOPENING AND FOR POOLS THAT CHOOSE TO REMAIN CLOSED</b>	
	<i>Secure premises to prevent access</i>	
<b>A</b>	Drowning remains a leading cause of accidental injury death in the United States. If the pool is closed, be sure all doors, gates, and windows that allow access are closed and locked.	All doors, gates, windows, and accesses were closed and locked during the off season.
	<i>Maintain recirculation and disinfection (All Pools &amp; Spas)</i>	
<b>A</b>	Maintain the pool chemistry even if the pool is not operational.	The swim facility was filled on June 4th date and chemically balanced by on June 10th.
<b>B</b>	Keep the water chemically balanced to prevent damage to surfaces and equipment by corrosive or scale-forming water. Properly balanced water will prevent biofilm and algae growth.	The chemical of the pool is manually tested four times per day by Pool staff or by Parks Department staff. In addition, an automatic chemical feeders are constantly maintaining the chemical balance of the water.
<b>C</b>	Minimize the use of pool heaters. Heaters should be run for 15-20 minutes after starting circulation to ensure they are operating correctly. After that, they can be turned off until the pool is ready to be open for bathers.	The pool heater will be used to raise the temperature of the water to 80-81 degrees.
<b>D</b>	Reduce the speed of the circulation pump. Ensure there is enough water flow to keep the chemical controllers operating, and to turn the volume of water over at least once daily.	Water at the pool is circulated 3 times per day (every eight hours)
<b>E</b>	Maintain the pool as normal. Check and balance the water chemistry, remove debris, and clean the skimmer and pump baskets no less than once a week. Continued maintenance includes brushing, vacuuming, and backwashing.	The water chemistry of the pool is manually checked four times per day. Removing debris, cleaning the skimmer, and pump baskets will also occur four times per day. Brushing and vacuuming will occur daily. Backwashing will occur as needed.
	<i>Aquatic play features</i>	
<b>A</b>	Aquatic play features or fountains such as water slides, cascading mushrooms, dumping buckets, or spray decks must be operated intermittently. Circulate water through these features several times per week for at least 30 minutes to help reduce pathogens in plumbing lines that service these features.	These features will be operated during normal business hours or approximately 8 hours 7 days a week.
	<i>Seasonal Pools</i>	
<b>A</b>	Clean and start the pool as normal, and follow the guidance above.	Completed.
	<i>Hot tubs and spas: Legionella concerns</i>	
<b>A</b>	Extended closures of hot tubs and spas can increase the risk of waterborne diseases such as Legionnaires' disease. Legionella is the organism that causes Legionnaire's Disease and Pontiac Fever. It is important to ensure hot tubs and spas are safe to use and minimize the transmission of Legionella and other bacteria.	Not Applicable.
2	<b>PLANNING FOR RE-OPENING</b>	
	<i>Capacity &amp; Distancing</i>	
<b>A</b>	The pool operator is ultimately responsible for ensuring that social distancing requirements are met. Determine user capacity based on social distancing requirements, and the facility's pool, spa deck, restroom, and locker room configurations.	Pool Operators utilized deck space, pool area, and the concessions building to determine facility capacity and have adjusted such capacity to accommodate social distancing requirements and to meet the 50% capacity orders.
	<i>Planning for reduced capacity</i>	
<b>A</b>	Consider the square footage needed per bather to allow for 6 feet of space for each patron (except for family groups) in the pool and on the deck at all times. In most cases, this will effectively reduce the regular posted capacity by 50%.	1406 maximum capacity at 50% is approximately 700. At any given time between 10-50 family or social groups may be present at the facility.

<b>B</b>	Ensure that capacity allows for proper social distancing on the pool deck in the event of a fecal incident or other life-safety situation where bathers may need to exit the pool and remain on the pool deck or evacuate to another location.	In the event of a fecal incident or other life-safety situation where bathers may need to exit the pool, both the deck and the warming house will be used for bathers to gather until they can re-enter the pool. In addition, the immediate area outside of the bathhouse may be used for swimmers to wait until re-entering the pool or being notified <u>the pool is closing for cleaning.</u>
<b>C</b>	Establish a schedule with time slots for various activities, and allow sign-ups online and/or by phone	Time slots have been made available for swim lessons and other activities. Plans to open at only 18% of capacity will ensure social distancing is achieved. Gradually increasing to a goal of 50% of capacity will allow staff to ensure safety is achieved and is being used <u>in lieu of a reservation system.</u>
<b>D</b>	Consider assigning separate entries and exits, and manage the flow of users to move in one direction.	The facility will maintain separate entry and exit points through <u>signage and stanchions.</u>
<b>E</b>	Consider impact on programs – recreational swim, water exercise, lap swim, swim lessons, swim team practices. Develop a plan for these scenarios, as applicable to your facility.	Plans for swimming lessons have been developed and are posted on the swim facility website.
<i>Lobby and locker rooms</i>		
<b>A</b>	Consider staggering entry of users and establish time limits to maximize the number of users while maintaining capacity limits.	Front desk attendess will monitor traffic in and out of the locker rooms and lobby and resolve any congestion issues that may occur.
<b>B</b>	Establish safe places for guests to wait for entry	Markings six feet apart on the floor, signage, and stanchions will direct guests to appropriate areas to wait for entry to both the facility and locker rooms. Plexi-glass screens will separate staff from patrons.
<b>C</b>	Encourage re-arranging locker rooms or putting in place other physical barriers or markings to encourage social distancing.	Signage on doorways will encourage social distancing.
<b>D</b>	Install sanitizing stations at the entrance to your facility and at key locations throughout the facility where customers are likely to contact shared equipment. If hand sanitizer is provided, ensure it <u>contains at least 60% alcohol.</u>	Hand Sanitizer will be provided at each entrance and locations of high touch (cash register, concessions)
<b>E</b>	Enforce the requirements for user sanitation and safety, including showering, as stated in Minnesota Rule 4717.1650: User Sanitation and Safety ( <a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1650/">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1650/</a> ).	The requirements of this statute are included in the pool rules poster.
<b>F</b>	Do not allow guests to congregate while waiting for access. Consider using floor markings, outdoor distancing, waiting in cars, or other techniques to maintain adequate separation.	Floor markings will be used to maintain adequate separation.
<i>Pool deck and bodies of water</i>		
<b>A</b>	Locate deck furniture in accordance with distancing requirements	Deck furniture will be marked with social distancing guidelines and returned to appropriate locations prior to patrons entering each day.
<b>B</b>	Consider marking furniture locations	Deck markings will be installed for chair locations
	Limit the number of individuals on play features to avoid crowding	Signage will be placed for line to play features and signage will inform guests of <u>appropriate social distancing guideines.</u>
	If diving boards, slides, or other aquatic play features are used, consider marking off the proper distance for people standing in line.	Marking will be placed as suggested.
<b>C</b>	During lap swim, consider proper distance between swimmers.	Not applicable.
<b>D</b>	One patron per lane at a time is recommended for lap swimming or competition. Patrons should swim in the middle of the lane to allow for maximum distance between their heads.	Not applicable.
<i>Staffing</i>		
<b>A</b>	Ensure adequate staffing to accommodate modifications to the operation, including altered hours of operation and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols. Train all staff on new procedures and expectations.	Dedicated COVID cleaning person will be sanitizing the facility during operating hours.

<b>B</b>	Each facility must have a designated person on site to ensure that guidelines and regulations are followed. A facility may appoint an attendant or other staff member to perform these duties, as long as the facility is otherwise properly staffed. A lifeguard while on lifeguard duty may not perform duties of the attendant or be given additional duties that distract from the responsibilities of lifeguarding.	Pool Managers have been appointed to ensure guidelines and regulations are followed by staff at the facility.
<b>C</b>	Plan employee schedules so that cohort groups work together, when practical. For example, Aaden, Javier, and Ann always work together; Hodan, Dawb, and Peter always work together. However, members of one team never work with another team. Scheduling in teams can help to reduce exposures within the staff.	To the extent possible, balancing the desire for work cohorts and necessary staff for patron safety, this consideration will be applied.
<b>D</b>	For pools without lifeguards, make a plan to determine how mandated capacity limits and access will be monitored. Options may include using a screener at the pool entrance, or using a video monitoring system	Not applicable.
<b>E</b>	Implement sick leave (time off) policies and practices for staff that are flexible and non-punitive.	Sick leave time and policies will be implemented according to the North Mankato City Employee handbook.
	<i>Signage</i>	
<b>A</b>	Capacity and social distancing.	Will be used.
<b>B</b>	Reminders to wash hands and practice good personal hygiene.	Will be used.
<b>C</b>	Location of handwashing and sanitizing stations.	Will be used.
<b>D</b>	Instructions on how to identify symptoms of COVID-19	Will be used.
<b>E</b>	Information about being excluded if individuals or household members are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.	Will be used.
	<i>Emergency protocols and other safety considerations</i>	
<b>A</b>	Evaluate COVID-19 impact on rescue protocol:	The pool is equipped with necessary equipment for modified CPR and guards have been trained to use the equipment.
<b>B</b>	Ensure adequate supply and reliable source of personal protective equipment (PPE).	Managers have procured necessary PPE.
<b>C</b>	Evaluate and revise CPR protocol as needed (example: acquire bag valve mask to eliminate the need for mouth to mouth resuscitation).	Completed and guards are being trained.
<b>D</b>	Have staff treat any emergency victim as COVID-19 positive until otherwise determined.	This is the standard procedure for the 2020 season.
	<i>Cloth face coverings</i>	
<b>A</b>	Encourage the use of cloth face coverings for employees and guests, when not in the pool. See CDC guidance on cloth face coverings: Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19 ( <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-facecoverings.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-facecoverings.html</a> ).	Each employee will be equipped with a face mask and may choose to wear it if they believe it to be necessary to complete work assignments or maintain their safety or the safety of those around them.
<b>B</b>	Do not allow swimming with cloth face coverings on. Cloth face coverings can make it difficult to breathe when wet, increasing the risk of drowning.	Protocol will be followed.
	<i>Cleaning and disinfecting the facility</i>	
	<i>In addition to regular maintenance, establish a cleaning protocol that includes:</i>	
<b>A</b>	Defined times of day when cleaning and disinfection will occur (examples include before opening, between shifts, after closing).	Pool Managers will communicate this schedule with staff. The Library director will review disinfection schedule to assure compliance.
<b>B</b>	Defined areas and equipment that need to be cleaned (for example: frequently touched surfaces such as ladders and hand rails, diving equipment, tables, doorknobs, switches, deck furniture, drinking fountains, emergency phones, toilets, faucets, sinks).	Pool Managers will communicate this schedule with staff. The Library director will review disinfection schedule to assure compliance.
	Discourage people from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect, or ones that are meant to come in contact with the face (for example, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).	Personal items will not be disinfected by staff.
	Discourage people from sharing equipment and toys that are not part of their household.	Toys are not available at the facility.

	Ensure adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kick boards and pool noodles, to minimize sharing to the extent possible, or limiting use of equipment by one group of users at a time and cleaning and disinfecting between uses.	This equipment is not used during open hours and during swim lessons each participant will have their own set of equipment.
<b>D</b>	For indoor pools, establish a cleaning protocol that addresses the HVAC system.	Not applicable.
<b>E</b>	Do not allow chemicals used to enter the pool water that are used to clean the decks, furniture, or other equipment.	Sanitation bins containing chemicals will be disposed of separate from the pool facility.
<b>F</b>	See the following CDC guidance: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html</a>	The guidance has been reviewed.
	<i>Children and swimming lessons</i>	
<b>A</b>	Modify the number of swimmers allowed in swim classes, according to limits on capacity	Swimming lessons have a maximum of five participants or four if parent participation is required.
<b>B</b>	Require that a parent or guardian from the same household remain in the water for lessons that require hands-on assistance for beginning swimmers	Novice levels require one on one parent participation.
	<i>Communicating expectations</i>	
<b>A</b>	Prepare your staff and community for your anticipated new operating procedures.	Trainings and public announcements are taking place
<b>B</b>	Notify customers of new expectations, compliance plan and restrictions in advance, and the need to cooperate for the pool to remain open.	Several forms of communication will be used to communicate this information
	<i>Professional guidance</i>	
<b>A</b>	Contact your swimming pool maintenance provider or local sanitarian / health inspector if you have questions. State and Local Environmental Health Delegated Agencies ( <a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/food/license/delegation.html">https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/food/license/delegation.html</a> ).	Staff is aware Nicollet County is the local Environmental Health Delegated Agency.
<b>3</b>	<b>AFTER OPENING</b>	
<b>A</b>	<i>Water chemistry and maintenance</i>	
<b>B</b>	Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of swimming pools should kill the virus that causes COVID-19. Maintain the disinfection residuals required in the Minnesota pool code: Minnesota Rule 4717.1750: Pool Water Condition ( <a href="https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1750/">https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4717.1750/</a> ).	City Pool Operators will maintain the swim facility according to the pool code.
	<i>Employee COVID-19 screening</i>	
<b>A</b>	Have a protocol to check employee health such as conducting employee health screening of all employees at the beginning of each shift.	Employees will adhere to the City of North Mankato's reopening preparedness plan.
<b>B</b>	You may opt to conduct temperature screening if it can be done with proper social distancing, protection, and hygiene protocols. However, temperature screening is not required.	Temperature screenings will not be taken.
<b>C</b>	Consider using the Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist ( <a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhtscreen.pdf">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhtscreen.pdf</a> ).	The Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist has been reviewed.
<b>D</b>	Instruct employees who are sick to stay home.	Employees who are sick, display signs of COVID, or self report symptoms or being exposed to COVID will be instructed to stay at home.
<b>E</b>	Follow the MDH guidelines for COVID-19 and When to Return to Work ( <a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/returnto work.pdf">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/returnto work.pdf</a> ).	The MDH guidelines for when to return to work will be implemented and are included in the City of North Mankato preparedness plan.
<b>F</b>	Have a protocol to address employees who begin showing symptoms of COVID-19 while at work	Employees showing signs of symptoms of COVID will be asked to put on a mask, isolated, and if well enough will be sent home. Areas exposed to the employee will be sanitized.
<b>G</b>	Train and remind employees of required hand hygiene practices, including handwashing procedure and frequency, and COVID-19 precautions when reopening.	This will be included in the training process

<b>H</b>	<i>Customer screening</i>	
<b>I</b>	It is recommended that you screen all customers and visitors before allowing them to enter your business.	Self screening will be achieved through signage that instructs guests to not enter the facility if they have symptoms or have known exposure to COVID.
<b>J</b>	You may opt to conduct temperature screening if it can be done with proper social distancing, protection, and hygiene protocols. However, temperature screening is not required.	Temperature screenings will not be implemented for guests.
<b>K</b>	Consider using the Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist ( <a href="https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhtscreen.pdf">https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facilityhtscreen.pdf</a> ).	The checklist has been reviewed.
	<i>Surface cleaning and disinfection</i>	
	<i>Cleaning hard (non-porous) surfaces</i>	
<b>A</b>	If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water before disinfection.	Dirty items will be cleaned with soap before sanitized.
<b>B</b>	Use U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 ( <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sarscov-2">https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sarscov-2</a> ) to thoroughly clean and disinfect the entire facility, especially if it has been closed.	Approved disinfectants will be used.
<b>C</b>	Focus on high-contact surfaces (e.g., tables, doorknobs, light switches, faucets, point-of-sale systems, keyboards, telephones) that would be touched by both employees and guests.	Protocols prioritize these surfaces for cleaning.
<b>D</b>	Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products. For example, concentrations, application method, contact time, and the use of personal protective equipment. Do not mix them together.	Manufacturer recommendations will be followed.
	<i>Cleaning soft (porous) surfaces and laundry</i>	
<b>A</b>	For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floors, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces.	These recommendations will be followed
<b>B</b>	For items that can be laundered such as towels, follow the manufacturer's instructions using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and then dry items completely. Otherwise, use products that are EPA-approved and suitable for porous surfaces:	These recommendations will be followed
	<i>Cleaning electronics</i>	
<b>A</b>	For electronics such as tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATMs, remove visible contamination if present. Clean and disinfect according to manufacturer's recommendations. Consider using wipeable covers for these items, if possible.	These recommendations will be followed
<b>B</b>	If no manufacturer guidance is available, consider the use of alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol to disinfect touch screens. Dry the surfaces thoroughly to avoid damage to the equipment.	These recommendations will be followed
<b>4</b>	<b>ADDITIONAL RESOURCES</b>	
<b>A</b>	Visit the CDC website for additional guidance about prevention of COVID-19 and public aquatic facilities: Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19 ( <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html</a> ).	This website has been consulted.