



PUBLIC POOL GUIDANCE EXCERPTS FROM STATE GUIDANCE AND ADDITIONAL LOCAL REQUIREMENTS

A public swimming pool is any swimming pool operated for the use of the general public with or without charge, or for the use of the members and guests of a private club. Examples include, but are not limited to, swimming pools located on the grounds of a hotel, motel, inn, an apartment complex, a gym/fitness club, campground, school, municipal or county pool, swim school, condominium or homeowners association.

Please note that in addition to this pool guidance, you must comply with other guidance specific to your industry sector type available at: www.emergencyslo.org/en/guidanceforsafeoperations.aspx

- [Campgrounds / RV Parks](#)
- [Outdoor Recreation \(including apartments and HOAs\)](#)
- [Fitness Centers / Gyms](#)
- [Hotels](#)

Specifically, review the following sections for guidance and development of your plan:

- Employee Training
- Individual Control Measures and Screening
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols
- Physical Distancing Guidelines
- Communal Restrooms and Showers

While the County of San Luis Obispo is in the Substantial (Red-Tier 2) of the state's new color-tiered framework: Outdoor public swimming pools are allowed to remain open. However, the pool slides, rides, or other attractions, and hot tubs/spa pools must remain closed. All indoor public swimming pools and hot tubs/spa pools are required to continue to suspend operations, except for infant drowning rescue courses. Water parks, both indoor and outdoor, remain closed.

Permitted Use as of 6/12/2020

- Outdoor aquatics classes are permitted with physical distancing and no shared equipment. Indoor aquatics classes are not permitted at this time.
- Swim lessons can be offered for **no more than 4 students per instructor**. Social distancing should be maintained between students and, whenever possible, between students and instructor.

Pool Operation

- Public swimming pools should take additional steps to ensure those facilities are properly cleaned and disinfected for patron use, according to [CDC guidelines](#).
- Maintain proper disinfectant levels (2-10 parts per million free chlorine or 3-8 ppm bromine) and pH (7.2-7.8).

- Consult with the company or engineer that designed the public pool to decide which [List N disinfectants approved by the EPA](#) are best for the facility. Ensure the [safe and correct use](#) and storage of disinfectants, including storing products securely away from children.
- For indoor public pools, introduce and circulate outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. However, do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, patrons, or swimmers.
- Ensure that lifeguards who are actively lifeguarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of cloth face coverings, or physical distancing. Assign this monitoring responsibility to another staff member.

Deck, Equipment and Pool Preparation

- Where feasible, install impermeable physical barriers such as Plexiglas where staff and patrons must interact, and physical distancing is difficult.
- Change the deck layout and other areas surrounding the pool to ensure that the standing and seating areas can support physical distancing requirements. This could include removing lounge chairs or taping off areas to discourage use.
- Ensure that the facility has adequate equipment for patrons, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, to minimize sharing wherever possible. Clean and disinfect the items after each use.
- Set up a system so that furniture and equipment (e.g., lounge chairs) that need to be cleaned and disinfected are kept separate from furniture that has already been cleaned and disinfected. Label containers for used equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected, and label containers for cleaned and disinfected equipment.
- Consider implementing reservations for pool use or implementing other mechanisms to support physical distancing. This could include reserving full lanes for individual lap swimming and half-lanes for individual household use.
- Encourage patrons to bring and use their own towels wherever possible. If the facility is providing them, launder towels according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely. Handle towels with disposable gloves and minimal disturbance, i.e., do not shake them.
- Discourage people from sharing items, particularly those that are difficult to clean and disinfect or those that are meant to come in contact with the face (e.g., goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
- Provide physical cues (e.g., lane lines in the water or chairs and tables on the deck) and visual cues (e.g., tape on the decks, floors, or sidewalks) and signs to ensure that staff, patrons, and swimmers stay at least six feet apart from one another, both in and out of the water.
- CDC's [Model Aquatic Health Code](#) has more recommendations to prevent illness and injuries at public pools in parks.

Ensure completion of a Worksite Plan and the [Self Certification](#) before resuming pool operations