



# Safer at Home

POOLS

## COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDANCE

GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC REOPENING TASKFORCE



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### **Safeguarding Guidance:**

The intent of this guidance is to reduce transmission of COVID-19 among employees and customers; support healthy business operations; and maintain a healthy work environment.

In addition to complying with the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission \(EEOC\)](#), [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\) guidance](#), and [US Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) guidance](#), the State of New Hampshire issues additional guidance and procedures to protect consumers and employees.

1. Review and follow the [Universal Guidelines](#) for All New Hampshire Employers and Employees.
2. Review and follow [CDC guidance for businesses and employers](#).
3. Review and follow [CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection](#).
4. Staff and must be provided with education and training about safe practices as it relates to hand hygiene, sanitation (cleaning and disinfection policies), and illness policies outlined in the [Universal Guidelines](#) and in this document.
5. Build social distancing into operations to maintain a safe distance of at least 6 feet between employees and attendees whenever possible.
6. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol must be made readily available to employees and customers/attendees at entrances and exits to the facility, throughout employee work areas and break rooms, and other areas frequently visited by both employees and customers/clients.
  - a. If possible, employers should make available individual bottles of hand sanitizer to each employee.
  - b. Employers should monitor and encourage frequent employee and customer/attendee hand hygiene.

Frequent hand hygiene should be performed including, but not limited to, upon arrival at the facility, before and after going to the bathroom, before and after touching a person's face or face covering, and prior to leaving the facility.

### **General Guidance for Public, Campground, or Commercial (where a fee is charged for use) Swimming Pools:**

1. Pools are allowed to be opened.
2. People must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from others at all times even while in the pool.
3. Free swim, swim lessons, water fitness classes, and lap lane use are allowed.
4. Swim competitions, such as swim meets, are allowed with restrictions as explained below.
5. All pool activities must be conducted in a controlled fashion with appropriate physical social distancing built into swim activities.



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6. Individual swim lanes for swimming laps should be scheduled utilizing a reservation system prior to arrival at the pool.
7. Water fitness classes (i.e. water aerobics) can continue as long as the facility is able to comply with the Gyms/Health and Fitness Centers guidance on classes.
8. Swim lessons can be conducted with a limited number of students (i.e. one-on-one lessons, or several students at a time with clear space separation of at least 6 feet while in the pool). Students and swim instructor must be able to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance separation at all times during the lessons.
9. Swim events, such as swim meets, are allowed.
10. If parents/guardians and spectators watch from the swim event, they are not allowed in the pool area, including the pool deck, during the swim event and must maintain safe social distancing from others.
11. A limited number of spectators can be allowed at swim events but they must be limited to close/immediate family members of the athletes. Swim events will not be open to the public and should not be advertised publicly.
12. Events must be staggered so that athletes can maintain at least 6 feet of distance between each other when waiting for their events, entering the pool, swimming, and exiting the pool.
13. Athletes shall bring and use their own equipment, including, but not limited to, towels, swim caps, goggles, nose plugs, ear plugs, and water bottles. Athletes shall not share their personal equipment with others.
14. Swim team staff and volunteers must have hand sanitizer with them and make it available to athletes. Athletes should carry their own hand sanitizer.
15. During the swim events, close-contact, non-athletic activities shall be avoided, including no shaking hands, hugs, or close contact huddles.
16. Equipment bags and backpacks of athletes, staff, and volunteers should be placed more than 6 feet apart.
17. Centralized areas for congregating, such as benches, tables, chairs, or deck areas, should be avoided unless there is enough room to allow for at least 6 feet of space between staff, volunteers, and athletes.
18. All mouth-based activities that are often encountered during swim events, such as spitting in the pool or filling one's mouth with water and then releasing the water back into the pool, shall not be allowed.
19. The use of pool deck areas is allowed.
20. The capacity of a pool deck is limited to the number of people who can sit in chairs or on towels around the pool deck and maintain at least 6 feet of distance from the pool edge and from other people. People who are members of the same household can sit together closer than 6 feet but they must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other people or groups.
21. Chairs that are generally available for use by people, either by a first-come, first-served basis or rental, must be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Businesses are responsible for ensuring that this cleaning occurs.
22. Tables and eating areas on pool decks or in pool areas are allowed to be open.



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23. Tables must be placed with at least 6 feet of distance between each table. Chairs and tables must be cleaned and disinfected between each use. Businesses are responsible for ensuring that this cleaning occurs.
24. Businesses should provide touch-free garbage cans for disposal of refuse.
25. Businesses are ultimately responsible for clean-up of all eating areas in accordance with applicable guidance.
26. Hand sanitizer or hand washing stations should be provided in the general pool area and specifically in the area where tables are.

