



# Coronavirus COVID-19

BC Centre for Disease Control | BC Ministry of Health



## HOW YOU CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Take care of others by taking care of yourself.

Wash your hands, don't touch your face, and stay home if you are sick.

Stay at Home and Physically Distance

Stay at home whenever you can. Maintain 2 meters distance from those outside of your household.

## Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) – Key Principles for Swimming Pools

July 14, 2020

	<p><b>Stay home if you are sick</b> Stay away from others if you are feeling ill, isolate at home, and do not go to work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell your employees that they must stay home if they are sick with any cold, influenza or COVID-19 symptoms. Employees must also contact their family physician, primary care provider or Health Link BC at 8-1-1.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Practice good hygiene</b> Wash your hands often, avoid touching your face, and cough/sneeze into your elbow or a tissue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have alcohol-based hand sanitizer at the entrance to the facility, pool enclosure and/or front check-in desk.</li> <li>Washrooms and showers must have liquid soap, paper towels and warm running water at all times.</li> <li>Employees must practice good hygiene throughout their shift including proper hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.</li> <li>Hand sanitize frequently using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially after touching people or their belongings.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Make space between people</b> Maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from others and replace close contact greetings like handshakes, hugs or high fives with waves and smiles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce maximum bather loads to minimize the number of patrons in the pool at one time.</li> <li>A 2 metre “bubble” of space should be maintained around each patron using the pool or hot tub, unless they are from the same party.</li> <li>Auxiliary areas where physical distancing is difficult or impossible should remain closed (e.g. saunas, steam rooms, exercise areas).</li> <li>Mark 2 metre increments where crowds normally form (e.g. line-up at diving board/slides).</li> </ul>



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	<p><b>Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as an additional control</b> Learn how to choose and use PPE correctly, know the limitations of PPE, and always have other controls in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPE, like masks, face shields, gloves and goggles, are not mandatory for employees conducting regular pool maintenance duties. Continue to use PPE normally required for safety reasons (e.g., when handling pool chemicals).</li> <li>• Using a non-medical mask may help prevent transmission from the wearer to other people.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Modify the environment</b> Make your environment safer for interacting with others by reducing common-touch surfaces, using non-porous barriers, or by changing room design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install shields (e.g., plexiglass) at front desks and in lobbies to protect administrative staff when interacting with patrons and collecting payments.</li> <li>• Increase floor space: remove unnecessary furniture, decorative items and shared equipment (such as pool toys), and organize moveable equipment where possible.</li> <li>• Use marker dots on the changing room benches to indicate 2 metre spacing for patrons to change.</li> <li>• Equip the site with additional cleaning supplies (spray sanitizer and paper towels) so patrons can wipe down surfaces at their own discretion.</li> <li>• If applicable, provide guests with single-use personal items (e.g., soap, shampoo).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Increase sanitation</b> Disinfect common touch surfaces frequently using a chemical that will destroy the coronavirus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider having separate cleaning supplies for different areas of the facility.</li> <li>• Create a checklist of all high-touch surfaces that must be cleaned; determine the frequency of cleaning and disinfection based on your facility's needs.</li> <li>• Use regular disinfecting solutions found in your pool safety plan; chlorine-based products are recommended. Avoid using quaternary ammonium as it can create chloramines.</li> <li>• Clean dirty surfaces with soap and water before disinfecting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Manage information</b> Stay informed, follow public health advice, keep records, and make sure information you communicate is clear, accurate and easy to find.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public pools should keep a sign-in/sign-out sheet at the front desk so staff can track the number of patrons in the facility at one time.</li> <li>• Have team members or a manager keep daily records of the people who worked together; keep these records for at least 30 days.</li> <li>• Maintain up-to-date and consistent messaging on websites, social media, emails, press releases, and during conversations with customers. Ensure all details are aligned, timely and accurate.</li> <li>• Put up signs at entrances to tell anyone entering not to enter if they are feeling ill, place hand washing signs at all sinks, and post any other additional rules related to COVID-19 precautions.</li> </ul>

