



## Public Information

County of Ventura · Resource Management Agency · Environmental Health Division

800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1730 • (805) 654-2813 • [vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health](http://vcrma.org/divisions/environmental-health)

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# CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR RE-OPENING & OPERATING SWIMMING POOLS IN SHARED RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS

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## **BACKGROUND**

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces. It is not likely spread through properly maintained and disinfected pool water. Symptoms of the virus include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath.

With summer, comes warmer weather, and the desire for communities to congregate around their community pools, including those in apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations. This can have the potential of increasing COVID-19 transmission. The below checklist describes the steps that owners and operators of swimming pools in residential settings must take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by focusing on social distancing, sanitation, communication, and workplace practices.

Ventura County is adopting a staged approach to allow the re-opening of swimming pools in shared residential settings only – those pools found in apartments, condominiums, and homeowner's associations.

Please note: This document may be updated as additional information and resources become available. Please visit [www.vcemergency.com](http://www.vcemergency.com) regularly for any updated changes to this document and for all other COVID-19 updates in Ventura County.

**All pool facilities covered by this guidance must implement all applicable measures listed below and be prepared to explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to the facility.**

## Social Distancing Protocol for Swimming Pools in Shared Residential Settings

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Facilities shall implement all measures listed below and explain why any measure that is not implemented is not applicable to that facility.**

### Measures to Ensure Social Distancing

- Implement a monitored appointment/reservation system to limit use of the pool facility to a small number of household groups that live on the property at a time. The system should encourage members of the same household to use the facility at the same time and should ensure that household members always maintain 6 feet apart from members of other households. Describe the appointment/reservation system:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Limit the number of persons allowed into the pool area at any time to 25% of the maximum pool capacity, which is \_\_\_\_\_, or 10 people, whichever is smaller. The number of individuals allowed at any given time shall be posted at the entrance to the pool area.
- Spa is \_\_\_closed or \_\_\_limited to one household at a time, and signage is posted.
- It is recommended that a designated onsite manager or other responsible person be responsible for monitoring and ensuring that the maximum number of pool users, either on the pool deck, or in the swimming pool, as set forth is not exceeded. The designated person should also be responsible to ensure that all interim guidelines are adhered to daily.
- Tables, chairs, and loungers placed at least 6 feet apart, and any furniture that cannot be properly distanced is stored/secured in a manner to prevent use.
- Large groups/pool parties are prohibited. Pool area use is limited to physical/therapeutic activities only.
- For those facilities that lack on-site restrooms for hand washing, hand sanitizer is provided at the following location \_\_\_\_\_.

### Disinfection Protocol, Requirements, and Oversight

- Conduct a pool safety check to ensure pool chemistry is adequate for disinfection, and the pool has been evaluated for safety equipment (rescue pole with body hook and life ring).  
\*Proper operation and maintenance should inactivate the novel coronavirus in the water.
- An [EPA-approved disinfectant](#) is frequently used to disinfect all handles/doorknobs, latches, pool/spa handrails, pool grab rails, ADA lifts, light switches, faucets, dispensers, tables, chairs, and countertops on the following schedule:
  - Gate handles, doorknobs, & fob readers: \_\_\_\_\_
  - All other latches, doorknobs/handles: \_\_\_\_\_

- Handrails & grab rails: \_\_\_\_\_
  - ADA lifts: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Light switches: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Faucets, handles, & dispensers in restrooms: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tables, chairs, countertops: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_
- Shared equipment such as kickboards, pool noodles, float toys, water dumbbells, etc. have been stored away and removed from use. Individuals should bring their own towels to the pool and not share with individuals from other households.
  - No food or beverages can be distributed on pool decks with others, and household members cannot share any food or beverages with non-household members.
  - Person(s) has been designated to develop, implement, and enforce the sanitation/disinfection protocol for the pool facility.
  - Person has been designated to be responsible for monitoring restroom and changing facilities to ensure the facilities are fully stocked with toilet paper, soap, paper towels, and running water.
  - Frequency of stocking, cleaning, and disinfecting the restrooms and changing facilities increased based on the volume of the pool and pool use. Restrooms and changing facilities are stocked, cleaned, and disinfected on the following schedule:
    - Restrooms: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Changing facilities: \_\_\_\_\_
    - Other: \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Restrooms and showers are frequently disinfected, and restroom ventilation systems are operating properly.
  - Sanitizing/disinfection wipes provided for pool users to disinfect high-contact touchpoints before and after use.
  - Ventilation systems of indoor spaces shall operate properly.
  - Increase introduction of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. ***Do not open windows and doors if doing so poses a safety risk to staff, residents, or swimmers.***

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### Measures that Communicate to the Public

- Signage shall be posted at each entrance into the facility informing all employees and pool users that they should: avoid entering the facility if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19; maintain a minimum 6-foot distance from one another; wear facial coverings when not actively in the water; wash their hands frequently or use hand sanitizer upon entering into the facility; and not shake hands or engage in any unnecessary physical contact.
- Signage indicating the maximum number of people allowed into the pool area at any one time.

- Spa signage indicating whether the spa is \_\_\_closed or \_\_\_limited to one household at a time.
  - A copy of this protocol is posted at all entrances into the facility.
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### Measures to Protect Employee Health

- Employees who can carry out their work duties from home have been directed to do so.
- All employees have been told not to come to work sick.
- Symptom checks are being conducted before the employee enters the workspace. Symptoms include, but are not limited to, a cough, shortness of breath, fever, or others. Temperature checks should be conducted if feasible.
- All workstations are separated by at least 6 feet.
- Employees are allowed frequent breaks to wash their hands.
- Soap & water are available to employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Hand sanitizer is available to employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Disinfectant and related supplies are available to employees at the following location(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_
- All employees who have contact with the public or other employees during their shift(s) are offered, at no cost, a cloth face covering. The covering is to be worn by the employee at all times during the workday when in contact or likely to come into contact with others. Employees are instructed to wash their face coverings daily.  
***\*Employees do not need to wear the face covering when the employee is alone or when entering the water.***
- Lifeguards who are actively guarding are not also expected to monitor handwashing, use of face coverings, or social distancing of others.
  - Designate another employee to monitor implementation of social distancing protocols. All employees should know who this person is and how to contact that person.
- Shifts are staggered or rotated to limit the number of employees present at the facility at the same time.
- Breaks are staggered to ensure that six (6) feet between employees can be maintained in break rooms at all times.
- Employees are prohibited from eating or drinking anywhere inside the workplace other than designated break rooms to assure that face coverings are worn consistently and correctly.
- Copies of this protocol have been distributed to all employees.
- Upon being informed that one or more employees test positive for, or has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, the employer has a plan or protocol in place to have the case(s) isolate

themselves at home and require the immediate self-quarantine of all employees that had a workplace exposure to the case(s). The employer’s plan should consider a protocol for all for all quarantined employees to have access to or be tested for COVID-19 in order to determine whether there have been additional workplace exposures, which may require additional COVID-19 control measures.

All policies described in this checklist, other than those related to terms of employment, are applied to staff of delivery and any other companies who may be on the premises as third parties.

Optional – Describe other measures:

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### Measures that Ensure Equitable Access to Critical Services

- Services that are critical to residents/patrons have been prioritized.
- Measures are instituted to assure access to services for residents/patrons who have mobility limitations and/or are at high risk in public spaces.

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### General Restrictions

- Use of spray grounds or water features is prohibited.
- Drinking fountains are turned off. Users are encouraged to bring their own water in a non-glass container.

\*Any additional measures not included here should be listed on separate pages, which the facility shall attach to this document.

**You may contact the following person with any questions or comments about this protocol:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_