

New Jersey COVID-19 Outdoor Pool Standards

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Executive Order No. 153 (2020)

**PRB pool facilities permitted to open to the public
on or after **June 22, 2020****

except aquatic recreation facilities

- conventional pools
- hot tubs and spas
- wading pools
- special purpose pools
- “pools operated by or serving campgrounds, clubs, churches, cities, common interest communities, counties, day care centers, group home facilities for six or more clients, health spas, institutions, parks, private lake, river, or bay associations, or private community lake, river, or bay associations, State, county, and municipal agencies, retirement communities, schools, specially exempt facilities, subdivisions, or cooperative living type projects of three or more living units, such as apartments, boarding homes, condominiums, hotels, mobile home parks, motels, recreational vehicle parks, townhouses, trailer parks, and youth camps

Review CDC Guidelines

The screenshot shows the CDC website interface. At the top left is the CDC logo and the text "Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™". To the right is a search bar with "Coronavirus" selected and a search icon. Below the search bar is a link for "Advanced Search". A teal banner below the header contains the text "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)". Below the banner is a breadcrumb trail: "CDC > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) > Communities, Schools & Workplaces > Parks & Recreational Facilities". To the right of the breadcrumb are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email, and RSS. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with a home icon and the text "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)". Below this are several menu items: "Symptoms", "Testing +", "Prevent Getting Sick +", "If You Are Sick +", "Daily Life & Coping +", and "People Who Need Extra +". The main content area features the title "Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19". Below the title are two buttons: "Other Languages ▾" and "Print Page". The main text reads: "As public aquatic venues open in some areas, CDC offers the following considerations for the safety of those who operate, manage, and use public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds. Public aquatic venues can be operated and managed by:" followed by a bulleted list: "• city or county governments" and "• apartment complexes". To the right of the main text is a box titled "On This Page" containing three links: "Prevent the Spread", "Healthy Environments", and "Healthy Operations".

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Search Coronavirus

Advanced Search

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) > Communities, Schools & Workplaces > Parks & Recreational Facilities

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

- Symptoms
- Testing +
- Prevent Getting Sick +
- If You Are Sick +
- Daily Life & Coping +
- People Who Need Extra +

Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19

Other Languages ▾ Print Page

As public aquatic venues open in some areas, CDC offers the following considerations for the safety of those who operate, manage, and use public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds. Public aquatic venues can be operated and managed by:

- city or county governments
- apartment complexes

On This Page

- Prevent the Spread
- Healthy Environments
- Healthy Operations

NJDOH Guidelines

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 153 (2020), the Department of Health has developed **New Jersey COVID-19 Outdoor Pool Standards**

The screenshot shows the NJDOH website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the NJDOH logo and the text "STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH". Below this is a search bar and a "How do I...?" button. The main content area is titled "Environmental Health" and includes a navigation menu with links for Home, Lead, Asbestos, Food and Drug Safety, Environmental and Indoor Health, Public Health Sanitation and Safety, and Environmental Public Health Tracking. The "Public Health Sanitation and Safety" section is expanded, showing a sidebar with links for General Sanitation, Youth Camps, Drinking Water and Public Health, Public Recreational Bathing, and Application Payments. The main content area is titled "Public Recreational Bathing" and features a "Regulatory Resources" section with links for Cleaning & Remediation, Disinfection & Testing, Free-Chlorine Residual, Guidance: 2018 Rule Changes, Sanitary Survey Template, and Webinar: 2018 PRB Rule. A "Consumer Resources" section includes links for Harmful Algal Blooms, Pool Safety for Parents, and Unintentional Drowning: Get the Facts. A "Rules & Documents" section is also visible. A red box highlights a paragraph in the "Regulatory Resources" section that reads: "Under Executive Order No. 153, outdoor swimming pools can open effective at 6:00 a.m. on Monday, June 22, provided that it complies with New Jersey COVID-19 Outdoor Pool Standards issued by the Department of Health. All public and private beaches, boardwalks, lakes and lakeshore swimming areas are allowed to operate, pursuant Executive Order 143. Recreational bathing facilities are required to complete the preoperational processes and obtain approval to operate by the Local Health Authority (LHA). Special Exempt Facilities under N.J.A.C. 8:26-1 are required to staff all personnel". A red arrow points from this highlighted text to the right.



New Jersey COVID-19 Outdoor Pool Standards

New Jersey public recreational bathing (PRB) pool facilities, except aquatic recreation facilities, are permitted to open to the public on or after June 22, 2020, pursuant to Executive Order No. 153 (2020). Pool facilities are defined in the Order, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:26-1.3, to include conventional pools, hot tubs, spas, wading pools, special purpose pools, and aquatic recreation attractions that include, but are not limited to, "pools operated by or serving campgrounds, clubs, churches, cities, common interest communities, counties, day care centers, group home facilities for six or more clients, health spas, institutions, parks, private lake, river, or bay associations, or private community lake, river, or bay associations, State, county, and municipal agencies, retirement communities, schools, specially exempt facilities, subdivisions, or cooperative living type projects of three or more living units, such as apartments, boarding homes, condominiums, hotels, mobile home parks, motels, recreational vehicle parks, townhouses, trailer parks, and youth camps."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued [guidance on operating and managing public pools and hot tubs during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). The Department of Health recommends that all pool facilities review the CDC guidance to assist with making decisions prior to opening.

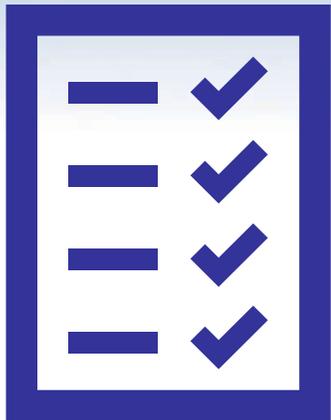
Pursuant to Executive Order No. 153 (2020), the Department of Health has developed these standards governing the operations of pool facilities, including the securing of staff, staff training, and other overall measures implementing the NJ COVID-19 health and safety standards. pool facility operators must comply with these standards

Approval to Operate

- Prior to opening - approval to operate by the LHA
- In lieu of inspection – [Pre-Operational Assessment Checklist](#) (N.J.A.C. 8:26-Appendix E)

COVID-19 Pool Operation Prevention Plan (CPOPP)

- CPOPP incorporated into the Aquatics Facility Plan (AFP)
- AFP and CPOPP must be submitted to the LHA.



COVID-19 Pool Operation Prevention Plan (CPOPP)

CPOPP Policies

- I. Staffing and Pool Facility Operations
- II. Admittance and Access to the Facility
- III. Infection Control Strategies
- IV. Restrooms and Shower Access
- V. Face Masks, Gloves, and Social Distancing Strategies
- VI. Communication Plan
- VII. Food Services
- VIII. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

I. Staffing and Pool Facility Operations

- A. Pool facilities shall hire adequate staff and development and implement protocols for staff training and pool operations, including but not limited to, at a minimum:

Pool Director Lifeguard COVID-19 Point of Contact Social Distancing Watch Ambassador

All must be trained on:

- COVID-19 awareness
- Cleaning and sanitizing procedures
- Performing assigned duties in a manner that promotes the safety of public and staff

- ✓ Pool Directors and Lifeguards shall be trained and certified
- ✓ Some PD [certification agencies](#) have developed and offered **100% online** coursework
- ✓ LG certificate extension of up to 120 days

I. Staffing and Pool Facility Operations

- B. Establish a protocol for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) acquisition and distribution
- C. Document COVID-19 awareness training and risk reduction strategies for all personnel

D. **Special Exempt Facilities under N.J.A.C. 8:26-1 are required to staff all above noted personnel EXCEPT the lifeguard**

(pool director, COVID-19 point of contact, ambassador to monitor and encourage social distancing of bathers on the pool deck)

- E. Develop a police notification policy
Develop reporting procedures in the event of non-compliance with any activities required by Executive Order No. 153 (2020).

I. Staffing and Pool Facility Operations

F. Implement a policy for **screening staff members** entering the facility

- ❑ Temperature readings of staff entering the facility



Persons that have a fever of 100.4° or above or other signs of COVID-19 illness should not be admitted to the facilities. Pool facilities should encourage staff to be on the alert for signs of illness and to stay home when they are sick.

- ❑ Screening for fever and signs/symptoms of COVID-19 illness at designated entry points prior to being permitted to enter the facility.



CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Search

Coronavirus



[Advanced Search](#)

[All A-Z Topics](#)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

CDC > Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



Coronavirus Disease 2019
(COVID-19)

Symptoms

Symptoms of Coronavirus

[Other Languages](#)

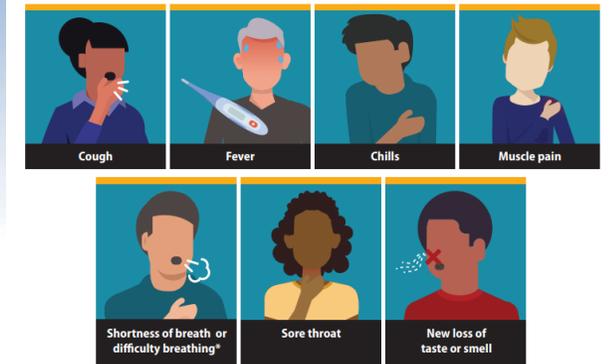
[Print Page](#)

II. Admittance and Access to the Facility



Designate, limit, and stagger access to entry and exit points to bathing area to avoid congregation.

Post signage for patrons at designated entry points with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 illness and recommendations when to stay home.



Must offer cash-less options at the facility where possible to limit physical interactions.

Maintain a sign in sheet for all staff and patrons to facilitate potential contact tracing efforts



II. Admittance and Access to the Facility

D. Implement non-discriminatory capacity restrictions:

Reduce capacity to **50% of MAX facility and grounds capacity** based on NJ UCC, Fire Code or normal average number of patrons

- Capacity in hot tubs must be reduced so that individuals always maintain 6 feet social distance, excluding immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners.
- Measures to implement capacity restrictions may include, but not be limited to:

Reservations (passes)

Limiting access hours

Demarcating grids on pool deck

- Recommended bather load calculation:

Pool Surface area	28 sq. ft./person	= amount of bathers in the pool at any given time
1200	43	
2000	71	
3000	107	

III. Infection Control Strategies

A. Designate COVID-19 Emergency Care Room

- ❑ Pool facilities that can accommodate 500 bathers or more, before capacity reduction measures are implemented, must identify, locate, and designate an emergency care room located outdoors with a protective covering, such as a canopy or other covering. The public recreational bathing rule requires an emergency care room to be utilized for the emergency care of injured/ill bathers.
- ❑ Document emergency care space cleaning procedures consistent with the cleaning and disinfection procedures identified below.
- ❑ Medical areas should be located outdoors.

B. Management must cooperate with LHA staff in any communicable disease investigation and follow current [Communicable Disease Service guidance for illness reporting](#)

C. Establish procedures for safely isolating and transporting anyone showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 consistent with [CDC guidance](#).

Disease Reporting

Many healthcare providers and facility administrators are required to report new cases of certain communicable diseases to either local health departments or the New Jersey Department of Health.

[Learn more](#)

III. Infection Control Strategies



D. Develop and implement **enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures** using Environment Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectants and following CDC guidance that includes frequent cleaning and disinfecting of high traffic areas and major touch points.

The procedures must include, at a minimum:

Provide sanitizer stations throughout the pool facility.

Ensure a sufficient quantity of cleaning supplies (Ex: soap, hand sanitizer, surface disinfectant) are available

Require frequent sanitization of any areas opened to the public

Routine cleaning and disinfection of:

- Frequently touched surfaces several times daily
- Shared objects after each use
- Staff ticket or sales booths
- Lifeguard stands
- Life jackets
- Lifesaving equipment
- Railings
- Towel decks
- Medical area supplies and equipment

III. Infection Control Strategies

E. Prohibit the sharing of furniture and equipment provided to patrons for use by the pool facility, including but not limited to: lounge chairs, umbrellas, towels, and other equipment except among immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners. Clean and disinfect after each use pursuant to the procedures required herein.

F. Allow patrons to use their own water play equipment including but not limited to goggles, snorkels, fins, kickboards, pool noodles and toys.

- Prohibit the sharing of such equipment except among immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners; and
- Not provide such equipment for rent or other use to patrons while at the pool facility.

IV. Restrooms and Shower Access



In all restroom, shower areas, and locker rooms:

- A. Require foot coverings within restroom, shower area, and locker rooms
 - B. The installation of foot pedals or motion sensor in shower area is recommended
 - C. Limit occupancy in restrooms, shower areas, and locker rooms that remain open to avoid over-crowding and maintain social distancing through signage and, where practicable, the utilization of attendants to monitor capacity.
- Recommend designating personnel to oversee the activity.

V. Face Masks, Gloves, and Social Distancing Strategies

A. Face Masks and Gloves

- Cloth face coverings should **NOT** be put on children under age two because of the danger of suffocation
- Face coverings should **NOT** be allowed in the water due to increased risk of drowning.
- Lifeguards should **NOT** wear a face covering while on duty actively lifeguarding.
- Lifeguards should wear a cloth face covering when they are not on duty actively lifeguarding and cannot maintain social distancing of 6 feet.
- Staff and patrons are encouraged to wear a cloth face covering while not in the pool when social distancing of 6 feet cannot be maintained, unless doing so would inhibit the individual's health.
- Proper and frequent hand washing is required by staff.
- Gloves should be worn when handling or serving food to patrons.
- Pool facilities should supply their staff with cloth face coverings and gloves, in addition to basic PPE's for isolation in the health area.

B. Social Distancing

- While in the water, unless the individual needs assistance in order to swim, except immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
- On the pool deck, except immediate family members, caretakers, household members, or romantic partners;
- Separating and spacing apart all benches and tables to encourage social distancing;
- Controlling crowd flow using visible markings, postings or signage; and
- Demarcating and post signs that denote six feet of spacing in all commonly used and other applicable areas or where people may form a line.

VI. Communication Plan

A. Methods to ensure a continuous public outreach campaign including but not limited to highly visible signage, websites, and mobile applications, to communicate restrictions, set expectations, and emphasize the importance of social distancing and hygiene.

B. Pool facilities shall post the following signage:

- Face coverings are strongly encouraged
- Face coverings should NOT be worn in the water (increases the risk of drowning)
- Hands should be washed frequently with soap and water
- Hand sanitizer that is at least 60% should be used if soap and water are not available
- Do not touch your face (especially eyes, nose or mouth) with unwashed hands
- Stay home if you are sick
- Practice social distancing and avoid large gatherings

VII. Food Services



- ❑ Food services shall remain limited to restrictions consistent with Executive Orders issued in response to COVID-19 as required by Executive Order No. 153 (2020)
- ❑ Tables or other equipment that impede social distancing should be removed or restricted.

VIII. Emergency Evacuation Procedure



- ❑ Pool facilities must revise the emergency evacuation procedure to ensure social distancing protocols allow for safe evacuation and all applicable guidance contained herein.

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