



COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

June 2020 Revised

Dear swimming pool operator:

New York State has recently published interim guidance for the operation of swimming pools and aquatic spray grounds during the COVID-19 pandemic. All indoor and outdoor swimming pools and recreational aquatic spray grounds that are subject to the operating conditions defined in New York State Sanitary Code are permitted to operate for members of the public during the COVID-19 public health emergency so long as the owners/operators adhere to any applicable Executive Orders and the following NYSDOH restrictions:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/doh_covid19_pooladvisory_061120_0.pdf

Businesses that operate during the COVID-19 pandemic have been required to develop a written safety plan that details the procedures and control measures that will be implemented during the pandemic. We have provided guidelines and a COVID-19 plan template (below) to help you prepare for opening.

Items to consider that will help you to develop your plan and implement control measures to help reduce or prevent the spread of COVID-19 at your facility include but are not limited to:

1. How will you keep your guests informed of the rules you need them to follow to prevent the spread of COVID-19? Some examples are below.
 - a. You can place posters in highly visible locations. <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/Docs/COVID-19-Community-Resource-Guide-Poster.pdf>
 - b. You can explain the rules to guests upon their arrival.
 - c. You can give guests educational materials upon their arrival.
 - d. You can broadcast regular announcements about how to stop the spread on the PA system.
 - e. You can broadcast messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in contracts with individual patrons or households, in emails, on facility websites (for example, posting online [videos](#)), through facility's [social media accounts](#), and on entrance tickets).
2. How will you implement and enforce social distancing? Some examples below.
 - a. You can modify activities in a way that promote social distancing.
 - b. You can eliminate activities that cannot be done while practicing social distancing. For example, do not host parties, and close playgrounds and basketball courts.
 - c. You can designate guest locations or arrange seating areas to promote social distancing.
 - d. You can set up guides to ensure that people waiting in line are distanced 6 feet apart.
 - e. You can reduce the number of staff and guests.
 - f. You can designate use of bathroom fixtures that are at least 6 feet apart.

3. How will you prevent gatherings?
 - a. You can inform your visitors that they are not to congregate with visitors from other groups.
 - b. You can designate staff to enforce social distancing requirements.
4. How will you promote and facilitate hand hygiene?
 - a. You can make sure that hand washing stations/sanitizer are available at strategic locations.
 - b. You can place posters promoting hand hygiene in bathrooms and by making hand washing stations available.
5. How will you promote and facilitate respiratory hygiene?
 - a. You can place posters promoting respiratory hygiene at strategic locations.
 - b. You can make sure there are enough garbage receptacles and that they are emptied regularly.
 - c. You can require that guests wear facial coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained.
6. How will you prevent employees from working while they are sick?
 - a. You can monitor the health of staff and ensure that they not come to work if they are sick or under a COVID-19 related quarantine.
7. How will you prevent guests from exposing other guests to COVID-19?
 - a. You can prevent access by guests who are demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms (most commonly fever, cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat).
 - b. You can provide information to guests on local urgent care centers and hospitals.
 - c. You can place signs at the entrances that ask guests not to enter if feeling sick with COVID-19 symptoms or under a COVID-19 quarantine.
 - d. You can prevent access by guests that do not wear facial coverings.
8. How are you going to keep the shared facilities clean and disinfected?

- a. The New York State Department of Health has developed guidelines. Their guidelines may be found at the following link [Interim Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19](#).
- b. Identify frequently touched surfaces such as gates, handles, furniture, ladder and stair handrails, doorknobs, and bathroom and drinking fountain fixtures, and target these surfaces for frequent disinfection.

9. In order to facilitate contact tracing, how will you keep records of guests and their contact information?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has considerations for aquatic venues at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>. Please visit our website for information and updates at: <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Coronavirus>.

Please remember that this information and the safety plan addendum may be superseded by subsequent guidance or requirements from the New York State Department of Health.

As a swimming pool operator, you can choose to operate your pool in compliance with guidelines and directives or not to operate, should you wish to do so. If your pool does close, please remember to notify the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH).

Thank you for your role in helping reduce the spread of illness.

James D. Fouts
Associate Public Health Sanitarian

June 2020

Written COVID-19 safety plan addendum for swimming pools

Facility Name _____

Address _____

Operator's Name _____ Phone number _____

Dates of operation Month/day _____ to _____

1. How will you keep your guests informed of the rules you need them to follow to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

2. How will you implement and enforce social distancing, both on the deck and in the water? (Note: lifeguards should be guarding, not enforcing social distancing).

3. How will you prevent gatherings?

4. How will you promote and facilitate hand hygiene?

5. How will you promote and facilitate respiratory hygiene?

6. How will you prevent employees from working while they are sick?

7. How will you prevent guests from exposing other guests to COVID-19?

8. How are you going to keep the shared facilities clean and disinfected? Describe your procedure and product used for frequent disinfection of high touch surfaces in your facility. How often will disinfection occur, who will perform the disinfection and what protective equipment will be used? How will these people be trained to do this important task? Here is the EPA's list of disinfectants effective against coronavirus: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf. Alternatively, you may prepare a 2% bleach disinfection solution by adding one tablespoon of household bleach to a quart of water

9. In order to facilitate contact tracing, how will you keep records of guests and their contact information?

10. How will you monitor and enforce distancing restrictions?

11. Does your facility have a playground or sports areas? If so, what is your plan for these features?

12. Are you modifying or eliminating any programs/congregation areas to help to maintain social distancing?

13. Does your facility have communal bathrooms or showers? What control measures will be in place to help prevent exposure to coronavirus?

14. Does your facility have a snack bar or other vending area? How will you modify the operation to comply with any Governor's Orders applicable to the operation and to ensure social distancing?

15. Describe your method to identify guests/staff suspected or confirmed illness(es) and report the illness(es) to DBCH within 24 hours.

16. Is there any other information that you would like to include?

Attach your facility rules and additional information as needed

Operator name _____

Date _____

Operator signature _____

By signing this plan, you are affirming that these procedures and any requirements of New York State and Dutchess County will be implemented and enforced at your facility. You are advised to Consult the NY Forward website at <https://forward.ny.gov/> and applicable Executive Orders at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/executiveorders> on a periodic basis or whenever notified of the availability of new guidance. These procedures must remain in place until you have received written approval from DBCH that the control measures can be modified or discontinued. These control measures may not prevent the transmission of COVID-19 at your facility.

DBCH Use Only

Plan reviewed by _____ Date _____

Plan acceptable Yes _____ No _____

Notification of plan acceptance to operator Yes _____ Date _____

Comments _____

