Reopening New York City: Guidance for Outdoor Pool Operators

Beginning July 1, 2020, New York City (NYC) outdoor pools can reopen. All indoor bathing establishments must remain closed, including indoor swimming pools, spa pools, saunas and steam rooms.

Pool operators must follow New York State (NYS) requirements for operating pools during the COVID-19 public health emergency:

- **Interim Guidance for Pools and Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**
  - Affirm compliance by completing and submitting the NYS Affirmation Form
- **Safety Plan:** NYS has developed a safety plan template
- **Statewide Variance – Acceptance of Aquatic, CPR and First Aid Certifications** (as applicable)
  - Complete Staff Certification Training Review Attestation Form

Pool operators must also follow the requirements of Article 165 of the NYC Health Code.


Remember, there is still community transmission of COVID-19 in NYC. Keep in mind the Core Four actions for preventing COVID-19:

- **Stay home if sick:** Stay home if you are sick unless you are leaving for essential medical care (including testing) or other essential errands.
- **Physical distancing:** Stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- **Wear a face covering:** Protect those around you. You can be contagious without symptoms and spread the disease when you cough, sneeze or talk. A face covering may help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- **Practice healthy hand hygiene:** Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; clean frequently touched surfaces regularly; avoid touching your face with unwashed hands; and cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, not your hands.

**Before Reopening**

Take these steps before reopening your outdoor pool:

- Notify the NYC Health Department of your reopening date by emailing PHE@health.nyc.gov.
  - In your email, include the facility's name, permit (Accela) number and planned opening date in the subject line.
☐ Implement proper start-up procedures to minimize the risk of waterborne illness such as Legionnaires’ disease.
  o Clean accessible surfaces, scrubbing away slime and biofilm.
  o Clean and maintain filters as recommended by the manufacturer.
  o Make sure all pool equipment is fully functional before reopening, and maintain equipment as recommended by the manufacturer.
  o Apply a biocidal shock treatment before reopening.
  o Make sure that all water quality requirements are met.
☐ Make sure you maintain all needed documentation, including:
  o Pool safety plan
  o Updated pool operator certifications and aquatic supervisory staff certifications
  o Signed NYS attestation forms for certified pool operators and aquatic supervisory staff with expired certifications
  o Staff rotation schedules
  o Operation and water treatment measurement logs

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Office of Public Health Engineering at PHE@health.nyc.gov or 718-310-2850.

The NYC Health Department may change recommendations as the situation evolves. 6.30.20