



Reopening New York City: Guidance for Pool Operators

Beginning September 30, 2020, all New York City (NYC) pools can reopen. However, the following types of bathing facilities must remain closed: saunas, steam rooms and indoor spa pools in gym facilities.

Pool operators must follow New York State (NYS) and NYC 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](#)
 - Complete and post a [Safety Plan](#)
- [Statewide Variance – Acceptance of Aquatic, CPR and First Aid Certifications](#) (as applicable)
 - Complete the [Staff Certification Training Review Attestation Form](#)
- Indoor pools must limit the capacity of patrons at the bathing establishment to 33% of the normal operating capacity.

Pool operators must also follow the requirements of [Article 165: Bathing Establishments](#) of the NYC Health Code.

Review the below guidance and [Reopening New York City: Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional reopening guidance.

Remember the four key actions to prevent COVID-19 transmission:

- **Stay home if sick:** Encourage staff and patrons to stay home if sick unless they need to leave for essential medical care (including COVID-19 [testing](#)) or other essential errands.
- **Physical distancing:** Staff and patrons should stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- **Wear a face covering:** Everyone should be encouraged to protect those around them by wearing a face covering while outside the pool. People can be contagious without symptoms and spread the disease when they cough, sneeze or talk. Wearing face coverings correctly (covering both nose and mouth) helps reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- **Practice healthy hand hygiene:** Post signs around common areas reminding all to wash their hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; clean frequently touched surfaces regularly; avoid touching their face with unwashed hands; and to cover their cough or sneeze with their sleeve, not their hands. Signs are available for download at nyc.gov/health/coronavirus or by calling **311**.

Before Reopening

Take these steps before reopening your pool:

- Notify the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (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.
 - Clean accessible surfaces, scrubbing away slime and biofilm.
 - Clean and maintain filters as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Make sure all pool equipment is fully functional before reopening, and maintain equipment as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Apply a biocidal shock treatment before reopening.
 - Make sure all water quality requirements are met.

- Make sure you maintain all needed documentation, including:
 - Pool safety plan and updated maximum bather capacities according to the reduction requirements that are in effect
 - Updated pool operator certifications and aquatic supervisory staff certifications
 - Signed NYS attestation forms for certified pool operators and aquatic supervisory staff with expired certifications
 - Staff rotation schedules
 - 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.

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