

**PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

**MAY 18, 2020**

**COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDELINES**

According to the CDC, the virus that causes COVID-19 cannot be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, spas, or water play areas. However, the opportunity for transmitting the virus does exist in surrounding areas. In addition to the above safe-practices, swimming pools should comply with the following additional guidelines to further minimize the potential for transmission and spread of COVID-19 in and around pools:



**SWIMMING POOL GUIDLINES**

- Facilities should only allow 20% of normal occupancy or 5 people (staff and visitors) per 1000 square feet of pool and deck area, whichever is less.
- Person-to-person interaction and activities between members of separate households should be limited and social distancing of six feet between them should be practiced.
- Commonly used surfaces such as bathrooms, doors, handrails, ladders, gates, lawn chairs, drinking water fountains, picnic tables, etc. should be cleaned and disinfected between each use by a different person, or at a minimum, once a day.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided for use by all staff and visitors.
- Signs and/or examples of six foot areas related to social distancing should be posted.
- Full compliance with SC Public Swimming Pool Regulation 61-51 is always required.
- Remove from service or regularly disinfect sharable equipment (for example, kick boards, floats, etc.)
- Consider lane reservations to allow family groups to use a lane or specific area of a pool.
- Consider a phased approach to opening that brings back lane swimming and limited number participant classes before opening for general swimming.
- Life guards should continue to follow universal precautions when rendering first aid of any type to patrons.



**RESOURCES**

**accelerateSC**

<https://accelerate.sc.gov>

**Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)**

Local businesses can access MUSC services for more hands-on and detailed assessments beyond what is provided in these documents by contacting [businesshealth@musc.edu](mailto:businesshealth@musc.edu) (843) 792-2840