Pool Re-opening during COVID-19
Frequently Asked Questions

Public swimming pools were closed as of the March 16, 2020 Health Officer Order and the March 19, 2020 Governor's Order. Outdoor swimming pools (and spas) may open as of June 5, 2020. Below is more specific information regarding the opening and operation of outdoor swimming pools.

“Public swimming pool” as defined in the California Health and Safety Code: “means any public swimming pool, bathhouse, public swimming and bathing place and all related appurtenances…” “operated for the use of the general public with or without charge, or for the use of the members and guests of a private club, including any swimming pool located on the grounds of a hotel, motel, inn, an apartment complex, or any residential setting other than a single-family home”. Public swimming pools also includes spas, spray grounds, water parks and are also located at health and fitness clubs, schools, municipalities, and campgrounds.

Public swimming pools in Marin County are regulated by Environmental Health Services and operate under a County of Marin Permit to Operate.

The June 5, 2020 Health Officer Order allowed Outdoor Swimming Pools to open. The best practices related to preventing COVID-19 transmission are detailed in Appendix C-2: Allowed Additional Activities in Section (4) Outdoor Swimming Pools.

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below:

**Are we allowed to open our public pool and spa?**

- At this time **outdoor** pools, spas, wading pools, and medical therapy pools may operate.
- Indoor pools, spray grounds, and water parks shall remain closed at this time.
- Outdoor swimming pools as part of childcare, summer camp or sports camp must be in compliance with Industry-Specific Guidance regarding Required Best Practices for Childcare Establishments, Summer Camp, and Sports Camps.

**Can my pool maintenance company continue to operate at my **indoor** pool?**

- Yes. The re-circulation and filtration systems should be operated to keep the pool water clean and clear. Routine maintenance including cleaning, chemical balancing and adjustments should continue.
- Not maintaining the chemical balance and filtration may pose other health risks to the users and to the community.

**Are public pools & spas required to post Site-Specific Protection Plans (SPP)?**

- Yes. All businesses are required to post SPP’s as stated in Appendix A of the Marin County Health Officer Order. The SPP describes how facilities will comply with each section and best
Appendix C-2 states that shared swimming areas must be limited to no more than one swimmer per 300 square feet of shared pool space. What does this mean?
• An example of a pool is one that is 15 feet wide by 30 feet long. This calculates to 450 square feet. In this example, only one pool user would be allowed in the pool at one time.
• This rule also applies to spas and wading pools. Since these are usually less than 300 square feet, only one pool user would be allowed in at a time. A member of the same household would be allowed to use the pool with the pool user in these situations.

Appendix C-2 states that shared swimming areas must be limited to no more than one swimmer per 300 square feet of shared pool space. What does this mean?

There are no on-site staff members at our pool. Are we required to have a monitor to ensure the protocols are being followed?
• One person must be responsible for implementation of the SPP.
• It is recommended that a monitor(s) be designated who can periodically check to see that protocol is being followed. It could be a maintenance person or a HOA Board or committee member.
• The facility should implement a maximum number of occupants and could consider a reservation system or time limits.

Are there other considerations to re-opening a swimming pool after being closed for a while?
• If the swimming pool has been closed for a while, it is recommended that the pipes be flushed of stagnant water before operating.
• If the spa has been closed for a while, it is recommended that the spa water be shocked before putting the spa into operation.

Are you accepting plan submittals for new pools, pool remodels, or alterations during the Shelter in Place order?
• Yes. We are accepting plan submittals for new projects. Please contact Loni Ward (LNward@marincounty.org) directly if you would like to submit plans.

Are you conducting pool inspections during the Shelter in Place order?
• Pool inspections will be conducted at pools and spas that are open to the public.

Where can I find additional information related to COVID-19?
• [https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/stay-home-order-effect-marin-county](https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/stay-home-order-effect-marin-county)
• [https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/appendix-c-2-allowed-additional-activities](https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/appendix-c-2-allowed-additional-activities)
• [https://marinrecovers.com/parks-outdoor-recreation/](https://marinrecovers.com/parks-outdoor-recreation/)