



Phase Two Reopening Guidance FAQs

Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts *(Updated 6-15-2020)*

Licensed Swimming Pools

Q1: Our pool is a small, private, members-only pool and the membership is limited to 35 families. There is no lifeguard on duty and our maintenance staff is comprised of a manager and crew, all of whom are pool members. In our situation, would we be able to proceed with our members honoring the physical distancing guidelines and self-assigning to monitor these guidelines while at the pool?

A1: No. The guidelines require that a physical distancing monitor be assigned if the pool is to reopen in Phase 2. This means that there needs to be one individual that is responsible for ensuring compliance with physical distancing requirements.

Q2: Can the limited-use pool open in our homeowner's association?

A2: If the limited used pool is located in a county approved for Phase 2, the pool is allowed to open following the [OHA guidance for pools](#).

Q3: Are swimming lessons allowed at pool facilities in phase 2?

A3: Yes, swimming lessons are allowed and should follow both the guidance for [Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts](#) as well as the guidance for [School Aged Summertime Day Camps](#).

Q4: What if a lifeguard refuses to perform CPR (breathing) because of fear of COVID-19 infection?

A4: Swimming pool operators shall ensure that the risks of operating a pool are communicated to all employees prior to reopening. As such, a pool should not reopen without knowing whether or not their lifeguards are willing to perform all duties. [Red Cross guidelines](#) are available outlining the need for PPE during CPR. Facilities need to provide appropriate PPE for lifeguards.

Q5: I am a member of a homeowner's association board. Our association does not have regular employees. Does there need to be a Physical Distancing Monitor at the pool present at all times or can we post signs for physical distancing if a monitor is not available?

A5: Any licensed pool that chooses to open in Phase 2 is required to have a Physical Distancing Monitor and cannot replace the monitor with signs. A volunteer may perform these duties and physical distancing signs are recommended to be posted at the pool to inform volunteers of the physical distancing requirements. The licensed facility is ultimately responsible if enforcement becomes necessary.

Q6: Can the Physical Distance Monitor be a volunteer?

A6: Yes. The [Phase 2 reopening guidance for licensed swimming pools](#) does not specify who can perform the role of Physical Distance Monitor. However, the volunteer must be able to perform the duties listed in the guidance to make sure that pool guests keep six (6) feet of distance, including at entrances, exits, restrooms, pool area, and any other area where people may gather. A volunteer may perform these duties, but the licensed facility is ultimately responsible if enforcement becomes necessary.

Q7: When the Physical Distancing Monitor is "on duty" is it their sole responsibility to monitor and maintain physical distance with pool guests in and around the pool?

A7: The Physical Distancing Monitor is responsible for ensuring physical distancing of six (6) feet between guests, at entrances, exits, restrooms, pool decks, and any other area where people may gather.

Q8: Can a facility have multiple Physical Distancing Monitors?

A8: Yes, a facility can choose to have as many physical distance monitors as they deem necessary to create a safe environment and ensure that the [Phase 2 Swimming Pool guidance](#) is followed.

Q9: Would the Physical Distance Monitor be required to wear a mask?

A9: If the physical distance monitor is an employee of the pool they are required to wear a mask, face covering or face shield following the [OHA masks and face covering guidance](#). These coverings should only be removed to blow a whistle, communicate with swimmers and before entering the pool.

Q10: If a community pool has a sign-up sheet to schedule times, and if only one household can use the pool at that time, would the pool need a Physical Distance Monitor?

A10: Yes. Any licensed pool that chooses to open in Phase 2 is required to have a Physical Distancing Monitor assigned by the licensed pool.

Q11: Could we have every household in our complex sign an agreement that an adult in each group will serve as the Physical Distancing Monitor while their family is at the pool?

A11: No. Each licensed pool or spa facility needs to assign a Physical Distancing Monitor, who can be a volunteer or staff, to ensure that physical distancing requirements are being maintained in all areas of the facility where people might gather. Physical distancing signs are recommended to be posted at the pool to inform staff, volunteers, and guests about the physical distancing requirements.

Q12: Since 14-year old children are allowed to swim independently, can they "physically monitor" themselves?

A12: No. Each licensed pool or spa facility needs to assign a Physical Distancing Monitor that is at least 18 years of age to ensure that physical distancing requirements are being met.

Q13: There is mention of a maximum number of people in a square foot area. How does this work if a family can be grouped together more closely than six (6) feet between each person?

A13: The reference to 35 square feet per person in the guidance is provided as a reference to help facilities determine how many individuals could safely occupy a locker room and maintain six (6) feet of physical distance. Family units are allowed to be within six (6) feet of one another, so the square footage would not be an issue for a family unit in the locker room at the same time. This would only be an issue if individuals from outside the family unit also accessed the locker room at that time.

Q14: Are there specific guidelines for how frequently we should clean?

A14: No. The frequency of cleaning would rely on a variety of factors, including frequency of use of an area, number of individuals touching a particular surface, the surface type, etc. Facilities will need to determine how frequently to clean surfaces to ensure their patrons are safe. For requirements on cleaning and disinfection, pools must follow the [OHA guidance](#).

Q16: Does the lifeguard need to wear a face covering?

A16: Yes. However, the lifeguard will need to remove the face covering to blow a whistle, communicate with swimmers and before entering the pool.

Q17: How do swim teachers maintain physical distancing while teaching a small child to swim?

A17: It is not possible to adhere to physical distancing guidelines while teaching small children. Therefore, it is important to perform health checks/screens for all instructors and require instructors to practice healthy hygiene on a daily basis following [OHA guidance](#).

Q18: The guidance refers to using the pool for lap swim by allowing one swimmer per lane. However, because all athletes are not doing the same activity, physical distancing measures can be easily accomplished. If six (6) feet of physical distance is maintained, can swim teams engage in activities at the same time as lap swim?

A18: Yes, as long as physical distancing requirements are maintained at all times whether in the pool or waiting on landing areas. It is recommended that different activities occur at different times to avoid multiple uses of the pool at the same time.

Q19: Many swim teams serve 100-200 kids and multiple swimmers share a lane. If we can maintain six (6) feet of physical distance, can more swimmers participate in the pool at a time?

A19: Yes. Coaches are required to establish methods to keep lane mates separated by at least six (6) feet, prohibit interactions between swimmers in adjacent lanes and prohibit swimmers from gathering at the ends of lanes.

Q20: The guidance states that "visitors of the same party can participate in activities together and do not have to stay six (6) feet apart." This implies that those arriving together, with the intention of being together, do not have to maintain physical distancing. This doesn't say household, but rather party, so would a swim team qualify as a party?

A20: No.

Q21: Will the limited use pools be required to have a Physical Distancing Monitor on the deck at all times while the pool is open? Can they monitor through a camera and not be on the deck?

A21: A Physical Distancing Monitor is required for each facility, but the monitor does not need to be on the pool deck at all times. See the [Phase 2 Pools guidance](#).

Licensed Spa Pools

Q1: We have a therapy pool inside of a gym. Can we open the therapy pool?

A1: If the gym is located in a county approved for Phase 2, the therapy pool is allowed to open following the [OHA guidance for pools](#).

Q2: If a gym or fitness center has a large spa (e.g., 12' x 12') that can accommodate physical distancing between multiple parties, do they still need to abide by the 1 person/household at a time rule?

A2: All spa pools will need to limit the use of the pool to one household unit at a time regardless of the size of the pool. Operators may consider scheduling reservations in 15-minute increments.

For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide documents in alternate formats such as other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Mavel Morales at 1-844-882-7889, 711 TTY or OHA.ADAModifications@dhsosha.state.or.us.