



Last updated: September 4, 2020

Phase One and Phase Two Reopening Guidance — Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts

Authority: Executive Order No. 20-27, ORS 433.441, ORS 433.443, ORS 431A.010

Applicability: This guidance applies to both general- and limited-use pools and sports courts in Phase One and Phase Two counties. Sports courts are both public and privately-owned facilities for use of sports. Full contact sports may not be played on sports courts or in pools.

Enforcement: To the extent this guidance requires compliance with certain provisions, it is enforceable as specified in Executive Order 20-27, paragraph 26.

Definitions: For purposes of this guidance, the following definitions apply:

- “Full-contact sports” means sports that require or are likely to have routine or sustained close proximity or physical contact between participants, and includes but is not limited to football, rugby, wrestling, cheerleading, basketball, hockey, dance, water polo, men’s lacrosse.
- “Minimal- and medium-contact sports” include but are not limited to softball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, women’s lacrosse, flag football.
- “Non-contact sports” include but are not limited to tennis, swimming, golf, cross country, track and field, sideline/no contact cheer and dance.

There are two types of licensed pools in Oregon: general use and limited use.

- General-use pools are typically larger facilities such as municipal swimming pools or community center pools.
- Limited-use pools are operated in connection with a companion facility, such as an apartment complex, hotel/motel, private club, association or organizational camp where the pool is limited to residents, patrons or members.

Operations:

Pool and sport court operators are required to:

- Review and implement the [Oregon General Guidance for Employers on COVID-19](#).

- Prohibit workers with any of the COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, etc.) from working or entering premises.
- Prohibit visitors with any of the symptoms associated with the COVID-19 virus from entering the premises. If a visitor has symptoms of COVID-19, staff must ask them to leave the pool, provide the visitor with a face covering or mask, and help the visitor minimize their contact with staff and other visitors before exiting the facility. Immediately disinfect all areas used by the sick visitor.
- Post clear signs listing COVID-19 symptoms, asking staff and visitors with symptoms to stay home, and listing who to contact if they need assistance. Operators may post warning signs in visible locations of how to stop the spread of COVID-19 virus (including the sharing of items such as goggles, and other hard to clean items).
- Require employees to practice healthy hygiene to reduce the spread of COVID-19 including washing their hands frequently and covering their sneezes and coughs.
- Ensure equipment is in good condition, according to any applicable maintenance and operations manuals and standard operating procedures.
- Comply with [OAR 333, Division 60](#), if operating a pool.
- Close water fountains, except for those designed to refill water bottles in a contact-free manner. Water bottles may not come into contact with the water fountain.
- [Use signs](#) to require physical distancing throughout facility, including but not limited to reception areas, eating areas and near bathrooms.
- Require staff (including lifeguards¹) to wear a [mask, face covering or face shield](#) when NOT in the water.
- For spa pools, limit the use of the pool to one household unit at a time. Operators may consider scheduling reservations in 15-minute increments.
- For sports courts, frequently clean and disinfect shared equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, equipment such as bats, balls and rackets. Use disinfectants that are included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved list for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19.
- Prohibit full-contact sports.

Distance and Occupancy:

Pool and sport court operators are required to:

- Maintain physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between people.

¹ The [Oregon Administrative Rules](#) that regulate pools in Oregon have different requirements for each type of pool. For example, most limited use pools do not require a lifeguard. If your facility is not required to have a lifeguard, you may disregard that part of the guidance.

- Inform visitors that members of the same party can participate in activities together and do not have to stay six (6) feet apart.
- Assign a physical distancing monitor to ensure compliance with all distancing requirements, including at entrances, exits, restrooms and any other area where people may gather.
- Develop a plan to limit the number of visitors admitted into the pool and/or sport court area so that six (6) feet of physical distancing can be maintained. Operators may consider requiring reservations to limit the number of individuals in the pool area.
- Alter pool deck layouts to ensure visitors and staff can keep six (6) feet of physical distance.
- If using the pool for lap swim, design and implement a plan so that swimmers enter and exit the pool on opposite ends and maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between one another. Prohibit the gathering of people within the facility, including at the ends of lanes.
- Designate a waiting area for swimmers that allows for six (6) feet physical distancing.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

Pool and sport court operators are required to:

- Thoroughly clean all areas of pool and sport courts prior to reopening after extended closure. Specifically, for pools:
 - Prevent Legionella: If a facility has been closed for a prolonged period:
 - ◆ Flush your water system, both hot and cold water. The purpose of flushing is to replace all water inside building piping with fresh water.
 - ◆ Flush until the hot water reaches its maximum temperature.
 - ◆ Care should be taken to minimize splashing and aerosol generation during flushing.
 - ◆ Other water-using devices, such as ice machines, may require additional cleaning steps in addition to flushing, such as discarding old ice. Follow water-using device manufacturers' instructions.
- Use disinfectants that are included on the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved list](#) for the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. No product will be labeled for COVID-19 yet, but many products will have a label or information available on their websites about their effectiveness for human coronavirus.
- Frequently clean and disinfect work areas, high-traffic areas, and commonly touched surfaces in areas accessed by staff and visitors, including counters, tables, lounge chairs handrails, door handles, water fountains, showers, pool toys and other commonly touched surfaces.
- Regularly clean restrooms and ensure they are supplied with soap, paper towels and hand sanitizer for planned use.

- Ensure hand sanitizer is available at locations around the facility for both staff members and visitors.
- Have maintenance staff or a pool maintenance company regularly check the pool recirculation equipment for proper operation and disinfectant levels prior to the opening of the pool.
- Prohibit lifeguards from cleaning and sanitizing while on duty.

Locker Rooms:

Pool and sport court operators may choose to:

Allow swimmers and sport court users to utilize the locker room before and after using the facilities.

If locker room use is allowed, pool and sport court operators are required to:

- Develop and implement a plan to limit the number of individuals using showers and changing rooms at the same time.
- Develop and implement a plan to keep at least six (6) feet of physical distance between people.
- Ensure that the locker room does not exceed maximum occupancy. Use the total square footage of the locker room to determine the maximum occupancy of the locker room based on a minimum of 35 square feet per person.
- Assign a physical distancing monitor to ensure individuals follow all physical distancing requirements, including at entrances, exits, restrooms and any other area where people may gather.

Additional Resources:

- [Example signs you can post](#)
- [OHA General Guidance for Employers](#)
- [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#)

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