



Phase One and Phase Two Reopening Guidance FAQs Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts *(Updated 9-14-2020)*

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the [Phase One and Phase Two Reopening Guidance – Licensed Swimming Pools, Licensed Spa Pools and Sports Courts \(OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance\)](#). OHA provides this FAQ, and may intermittently update the FAQ, to help the public understand the guidance, respond to stakeholder questions, and clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. The FAQ is not intended to take the place of the guidance, but rather to interpret, supplement, and help fill in the details of the guidance.

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. A staff or volunteer can be assigned as a physical distancing monitor and must be assigned during the time that the pool is in use. Pool operators can determine how monitors are assigned.

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

A2: Yes, the pool is allowed to open following the [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

Q3: Are swimming lessons allowed at pool facilities?

A3: Yes, swimming lessons are allowed and should follow both the guidance for [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

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 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 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 [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#) 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 solely 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. This person may be a staff or volunteer assigned by the pool operator.

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 [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#) is followed.

Q9: Is the Physical Distancing Monitor required to wear a mask?

A9: Yes, a physical distancing monitor must wear a mask, face covering or face shield. A mask, face covering or face shield may only be removed to blow a whistle or when in the water.

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

A10: No. Any licensed pool that chooses to open is required to have a Physical Distancing Monitor assigned by the licensed pool if more than one family/group is using the pool at the same time.

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

A11: Yes. 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. This monitor can be designated by the family/household when using the pool and communicate that to the pool operator for the complex. 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. Members of the same party may be within six (6) feet of one another, so the square footage would not be an issue for a party in the locker room at the same time. This would only be an issue if individuals from outside the party 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 Pools and Sport Court 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 or before entering the pool as part of lifeguarding duties.

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 Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

Q18: If six (6) feet of physical distance are 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. OHA recommends that different activities occur at different times to avoid multiple uses of the pool at the same time and avoid crowding, but it is not required.

Q19: If we can maintain six (6) feet of physical distance, can multiple swimmers participate in the pool at the same time?

A19: Yes. Coaches are required to establish methods to keep lane mates separated by at least six (6) feet, except when lane mates are swimming by one another to opposite ends of the lane. Coaches must prohibit interactions between swimmers in adjacent lanes and prohibit swimmers from gathering at the ends of lanes. Swimmers should enter and exit the pool on opposite ends and maintain six (6) feet of physical distance between one another. Swimmers gathering together is strictly prohibited; a designated waiting area that allows for six (6) feet physical distance is required. Operators must assign a physical distancing monitor during all hours of operation.

Q20: Are members on the same swim team like the members of a household that can be within six (6) feet of each other?

A20: No. Only members belonging to the same household can be within six (6) feet of each other.

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 [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

Q23: Are pool operators required to have space on the pool deck to adequately maintain physical distancing for lane swimmers?

A23: Yes. Pool operators must designate a waiting area for swimmers that allows for six (6) feet physical distancing.

Q24: Are single occupant changing rooms classified as locker rooms?

A24: No. If a changing room is designed for single occupants, no more than one person at a time should be using the room, unless they are members of the same party.

Q25: Are pool operators allowed to host small gatherings (ex. birthday parties) in their pool area? If so, what is the guidance for party size limit?

A25: Yes. Pool operators in Phase One counties must follow the OHA [Guidance for Gatherings, Indoor Social Get-Togethers](#) to determine the party size limit. Pool operators in Phase Two counties may follow the Phase Two Venue and Event guidance.

Q27: Are water slides at pools allowed to be open?

A27: Yes, however, pool operators must not allow gathering at or near the water slide and ensure that physical distancing requirements are met at all times.

Q28: Are survival swim classes for children allowed?

A28: Yes. It is not possible to adhere to physical distancing guidelines while teaching survival swim classes. 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 Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

Q29: Swim instructors will likely come in close contact with students. Can one swim instructor work with multiple “household units” or swim classes throughout the day?

A29: Yes. Swim instructors who interact with multiple swim classes should wear a face mask, face covering or face shield when not in the pool and wash/sanitize their hands between interactions with different parties.

Q30: If we choose to open our locker room, can swimmers use the showers in the locker room?

A30: Yes. Pool operators may allow use of showers in the locker room. Showers must be cleaned frequently in accordance with the [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

Licensed Spa Pools

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

A1: Yes. If the gym is located in a county approved for Phase One or Phase Two, the therapy pool is allowed to open following the [OHA Pools and Sport Court Guidance](#).

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.

Q3: One household unit at a time in the spa – meaning if not in the same household, only one (1) person in spa at a time?

A3: Yes.

Q4: Can saunas operate if the operators follow distancing and cleaning requirements in the pool guidance?

A4: No. Saunas and steam rooms are currently closed at this time and cannot operate.

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@dhsoha.state.or.us.