

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance and Reopening of Water Recreation Facilities in Phases

Summary of March 22, 2021 changes:

- Addition of requirements for all water recreation facilities for Phase 3.
- Addition of requirements specific to waterparks and standalone splash pads.

Introduction

On January 8, 2021, the Office of the Governor announced [Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery](#), which discusses a phased recovery plan based on important COVID-19 metrics. This guidance document addresses how this recovery plan applies to Water Recreation Facilities regulated in Washington State under chapters 70.90 RCW, 246-260 WAC, and 246-262 WAC, and provides guidelines to reduce transmission of COVID-19 among employees and patrons. This guidance is subject to change as needed.

Guidelines that Apply to All Water Recreations Facilities in All Phases

[High-risk populations](#) are discouraged from using any Water Recreation Facilities until it is safe to do so.

- See above for the definition of high-risk populations.
- If it is decided that using a water recreation facility is beneficial for the health of people who belong to the high-risk populations, use as many precautions as possible to protect them from possible exposure to COVID-19.

Facility owners and managers must do the following:

Plan Development

- Prior to reopening, all water recreation facilities are required to develop for each facility a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation and recovery plan. The plan must include policies regarding the following control measures:
 - Designation of staff to implement the plan;
 - PPE utilization;
 - On-location physical distancing;
 - Hygiene;
 - Sanitation;
 - Symptom monitoring;
 - Incident reporting;
 - Location disinfection procedures;

- COVID-19 safety training;
- Competitive swim team practice safety protocols;
- Exposure response procedures; and
- Post-exposure incident mitigation and recovery plan.

A copy of the plan must be available at the location and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet these requirements will result in sanctions, including the location being shut down.

Facility Safety

- Ensure that the facility is safe to reopen and meets all requirements in Chapters [246-260 WAC](#) and [246-262 WAC](#), as applicable.
- Refer to the [guidance document](#) on reopening after a long period of shut-down.

Physical Distancing

- Maintain six-foot minimum physical distancing for employees and patrons through all phases. Minimize the chance that people come within six feet of one another. This applies to all parts of the facility (in the water, decks, bathrooms, shower rooms, locker rooms, and other communal areas).
- Develop written plans to ensure that six-foot minimum physical distancing is followed both by staff and patrons at all times. While developing plans consider the following:
 - People from the same household can be together but there should be adequate space to allow for physical distancing between people from different households.
 - All parts of the facility, including but not limited to, pools, spas, decks, locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms, offices, lounges, and front counters.
 - The types of activities patrons engage in.
- Do not hold or allow activities unless six-foot minimum physical distancing can be maintained except for unavoidable brief instances where individuals pass by one another unless specifically allowed in this document.
- People of the same household may occupy the same lane (or a section of the pool) without physical distancing as long as all Phase Specific Requirements below are met and a safe way to get in and out of the pool for the patrons and staff is provided by means of steps, ladders, zero-depth-entry, etc.
- A patron who requires care to participate in activities allowed in this document may be accompanied by a caregiver without physical distancing between them as long as the facility staff is informed about it to avoid misunderstanding and confusion.
- Develop a strategy for patrons to maintain six-foot physical distancing in the water, locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms, and other communal areas. This may be accomplished by controlling the number of people using the facility, providing visual cues such as markings on the floor, etc. Close communal areas if that is an option. Use this [supplemental guidance](#) for more information.
- Remove or rearrange lounge chairs and tables as necessary.

- Adopt other prevention measures such as barriers to block sneezes and coughs where physical distancing is not possible. For example, this may be appropriate for front desk personnel.

Personal Hygiene

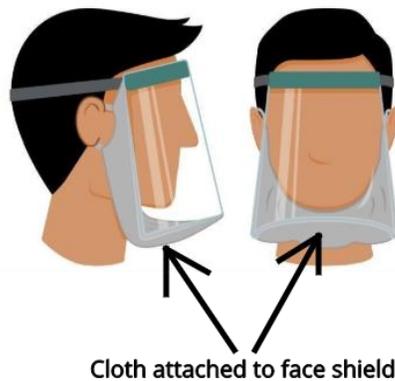
- Encourage staff and patrons to protect themselves and others by following the guidelines below.
 - Wash hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. Provide an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol in addition to (not as a replacement for) handwashing stations if desired.
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
 - Stay home if you are sick. Stay home as much as possible.

Face Coverings and Other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Face coverings that cover the nose and the mouth and fit securely on the sides of the face and under the chin are required at all times at a water recreation facility according to the [Health Secretary's order](#).
 - Face covering may be removed when:
 - Being in an outdoor public area (e.g., outdoor spa, outdoor pool deck) while maintaining the minimum six-foot physical distancing with all non-household members
 - Engaging in indoor or outdoor exercise activities (e.g., swimming in pools and using waterslides)
 - Staff and patrons must wear a face covering in an **indoor environment**, even if six-foot physical distancing is maintained, in situations including but not limited to:
 - Lounging on the pool deck (This excludes times when patrons are preparing for or actively engaging in exercise activities).
 - Using a spa (hot tub)
 - Lifeguarding on the pool deck (not in water)
 - Masks made of bathing suit materials are available on the market. It should be made of two or more layers of tightly woven fabric with ties or straps that go around your head or behind your ears.
 - [Provide training](#) to staff on how to [properly use masks](#).
 - [More information about face coverings available at DOH website](#).
 - Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends strategies to improve mask fitting to more effectively slow the spread of COVID-19. These strategies include wearing a cloth mask over a medical procedure mask, knotting the ear loops of a medical procedure mask, using a mask fitter, or using a nylon covering over a mask. In addition, DOH does not recommend the use of masks with exhalation valves or vents, or single layer bandanas and gaiters. It is important to wear a mask in all public settings combined with continued implementation of effective public health measures

such as vaccination, physical distancing, hand hygiene, and isolation and quarantine.

- Swim instructors, who need to provide close contact support (within 6 feet) to beginner swimmers who are not wearing masks, are considered to be in medium to high risk category according to [this document](#) provided by L&I. The following requirements apply to these swim instructors:
 - Wear a face shield with cloth attachment that is made of waterproof or quick drying material (e.g., Tyvek, Badger Shield, Humanity Shield)



Source: Washington State Labor and Industries

- Receive consultation from L&I when in doubt.
- If proper PPE is not available, do not provide close-contact lessons. Seek other alternatives such as asking parents to provide support for the students and using other equipment to keep physical distancing.
- Lifeguards and attendants, who are stationed to control or direct crowds and are not able to consistently maintain a minimum six-foot physical distancing with patrons and expect to get respiratory droplets sprayed on their faces, especially at waterparks, are also required to wear face shields with cloth attachment. If respiratory droplets being sprayed on their faces is not a concern, a face covering that meets the requirements of this section must be worn.

Environmental Hygiene

- Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfection, especially for high-touch surfaces. Refer to [these recommendations](#) by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Examples of high-touch surfaces include but are not limited to: Door handles, locker handles, faucets, drinking fountains, toilets, shower handles, diaper changing stations, light switches, pens, chairs, tables, desks, handrails, pool noodles, and kickboards.
- Store cleaning products properly away from small children.
- Pool water does not qualify as an effective surface disinfectant to inactivate COVID-19 virus.
- Good ventilation helps reduce the chance that the virus spreads in indoor settings. Use and follow [this guidance](#) as much as possible where appropriate.

Limit Access to Facility

- [Have a policy](#) in place to keep out staff and patrons who may have COVID-19 symptoms and exclude staff and patrons who develop COVID-19 symptoms while at the facility, including isolating them, calling for medical treatment if necessary, and disinfecting surfaces touched by them.
- As a reminder, ask health screening questions of each patron within 24 hours prior to entry into the facility and deny access according to the policy above.
- Discourage access to the facility by patrons who may be infectious by providing:
 - Information on websites and through social media.
 - Signage at the entrance.
 - Information handout, verbal instruction, or whatever method works best for your facility.
 - [WAC 246-260-131](#)(5)(a)(iii) requires that the facility owner posts a signage for “Prohibiting use by anyone with a communicable disease or anyone who has been ill with vomiting or diarrhea within the last two weeks.”

Other Considerations

- Educate employees about COVID-19 in the language they best understand. The education should include the signs, symptoms and risk factors associated with COVID-19 and how to prevent spread. This could be in the form of in-person training (while practicing physical distancing), on-line training, handouts, posters, etc.
- Follow requirements in Governor Inslee’s [Proclamation 20-46 High-Risk Employees – Workers’ Rights](#).

Phases in Roadmap to Recovery Plan

- To learn whether your facility/pool can reopen and in what manner, see the [list](#) below and the [summary table](#) at the end of this document.
- To find out which phase your county is currently in and how decisions are made to allow counties to move from one phase to the next, see [this site](#).

Phase and Facility Type Specific Requirements

Reference the applicable guidelines for each type of facility and each phase.

Definitions:

Recreational water contact facility is defined in [WAC 246-260-010](#) as “Recreational water contact facility” means an artificial water associated facility with design and operational features that provide patron recreational activity which is different from that associated with a conventional swimming pool and purposefully involves immersion of the body partially or totally in the water, and that includes but is not limited to water slides, wave pools, and water lagoons. These facilities are regulated by chapter [246-262](#) WAC.”

Waterpark is defined, for the purpose of this document, as “a water recreation complex that consists of multiple facilities, at least some of which must be recreational water contact facilities regulated under WAC 246-262 (e.g., waterslides, wave pools, surf pools), and it is large enough to be considered amusement-park-like, and often features food establishments and retail shops within.” Athletic gym pools and municipal pools should follow the requirements for “[All Water Recreation Facilities except for Waterparks and Standalone Splash Parks](#)” below instead of requirements for waterparks.

Standalone splash park, for the purpose of this document, is defined as “a spray pool with no standing water (as defined in [WAC 246-260-010\(70\)](#)) that is not part of the same enclosure with other Water Recreation Facilities, and it is often owned and operated by a municipality and provided in locations such as public parks that the general public has access to, typically with no admission fee or membership requirement.”

Perimeter deck means the hardscape surface area immediately adjacent to and within 4 to 6 feet of the edge (depending on the design) of the pool also known as the “wet deck” area.

Pool deck means surface areas serving the water recreation facility, beyond perimeter deck, which is expected to be regularly trafficked and made wet by bathers.

Dry deck means all pedestrian surface areas within the water recreation facility enclosure not subject to frequent splashing or constant wet foot traffic. The dry deck is not perimeter deck or pool deck, which connect the pool to adjacent amenities, entrances, and exits. Landscape areas are not included in this definition.

Guidelines for All Water Recreation Facilities except for Waterparks and Standalone Splash Parks during [Phases 1 and 2](#)

- Recreational Water Contact Facilities (waterpark-like facilities) regulated under [WAC 246-262](#) are not allowed to open in Phase 1 or Phase 2. Only outdoor Recreational Water Contact Facilities are allowed to open in Phase 2.
- Float tank facilities and designated swim areas in natural waters (outdoor beaches) are allowed to open in Phase 1 with the requirements in the table at the end of this document.
- Activity pools (indoor and outdoor) are allowed to open in Phase 1 if activity features are turned off or are made inaccessible to patrons, and those features are not advertised. Outdoor activity pools are allowed to open in Phase 2 with activity features turned on or made accessible.
- All other Water Recreation Facilities regulated under [WAC 246-260](#) (and recreational water contact facilities and activity pools as mentioned above) are allowed to open in Phases 1 and 2 with the following conditions:
 - Patrons must make an appointment in advance to use these facilities. Patrons who use a “limited use pool” as defined in [WAC 246-260-010\(46\)](#) must be living or staying at the facility, and must not include invited guests during these

phases. Organized programs at limited use pools, as defined in [WAC 246-260-010\(46\)](#) may be held for patrons other than those specified under the limited use category, but in that case, appointments must be made with no exceptions.

- If an appointment system is not possible at your facility (e.g., hotel/motel pools and apartment pools), then the following must be met:
 - Maximum occupancy calculated according to the requirements in this section must be posted in conspicuous locations for all patrons to see.
 - Designated staff on site must periodically check the facility to ensure that the number of patrons in the facility does not exceed the maximum occupancy.
 - If it is not feasible to follow the above requirements, do not open the facility.
 - Organized programs at limited use pools, as defined in WAC 246-260, may not happen at these facilities without an appointment system.
- The most restrictive of all below must be followed. The total number of patrons (facility staff excluded) present within the facility at any given time must not exceed:
 - 50 people maximum. For a large facility that has multiple pools within the facility (for example, a municipal aquatic center or an athletic club aquatic facility), the cap may exceed 50 people if a reasonable number is established between the facility manager and the local health department. DOH is available for consultation.
 - The water surface area (square footage) of the pool plus the surface area of the perimeter deck divided by 162 for each pool. “Perimeter deck” is also known as wet deck, which means the pool deck area immediately adjacent to the pool’s edge that is typically 4 to 6 feet wide. **EXCEPTION:** If combined water surface area of all pool(s) within an enclosure (room or fenced area) is less than 810 square feet and all patrons scheduled at one time are of the same household, follow the usual maximum bather load of the pool.
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for between people from the same household. See [this document](#) for more information.
- Up to two people are allowed to occupy the same lane (6 feet minimum in width) at the same time and swim past each other for lap-swimming, but for [high-risk individuals](#), one person per lane is strongly recommended. More than two swimmers per lane, but no more than 4, are permitted for competitive swim team practices if supervised by a certified coach meeting the requirement of [WAC 246-260-99901](#) and the team’s COVID-19 safety and response plan includes a diagram of safe lane configurations that demonstrate swimmers will be able to maintain six feet of distancing except when swimmers briefly swim past each other. Swim teams are subject to and their swimmers count toward the total

occupancy of a pool as described in this guidance. For lap swimming and swim team practices, no two swimmers are allowed to remain within 6 feet of each other during resting periods without a proper physical barrier between them.

- For swim instructors, limit the time providing close-contact instruction (within 6 feet) to a maximum of 5 minutes for each student in each swim lesson session.
- Water sports (e.g., water polo and water volleyball) that make it difficult to maintain minimum 6-foot physical distancing are not allowed in Phases 1 and 2.
- Swim meets, diving competitions, and so on are allowed during these phases. However, facility managers must take extra precautions to hold these events safely by planning and organizing carefully and following all the requirements in this document.
- Features that make physical distancing difficult (e.g., lazy river propulsion, wave machines in wave pools, and other play features that take away control of movements from patrons) must be turned off , removed, or adjusted (e.g., low flow setting) so that patrons can maintain control of their body movements. Surf pools, where only one person or a small group of people (no more than 5 people) surf together are allowed with no restrictions.
- Implement user rotation and staggering as necessary to control crowds.
- Follow the provisions in [Healthy Washington – Roadmap to Recovery](#) for social gathering events (e.g., a birthday parties) planned at water recreation facilities during these phases.
- Refer to [this guidance](#) to learn more about occupancy and tools you can use during different phases.

Guidelines for All Water Recreation Facilities except for Waterparks and Standalone Splash Parks during [Phase 3](#)

All Water Recreation Facilities regulated under [WAC 246-260](#) and [WAC 246-262](#) are allowed to open regardless of indoor or outdoor setting if the following requirements are met:

- Features that make physical distancing difficult (e.g., lazy river propulsion, wave machines in wave pools, and other play features that take away control of movements from patrons) must be turned off , removed, or adjusted (e.g., low flow setting) so that patrons can maintain control of their body movements. Surf pools, where only one person or a small group of people (no more than 5 people) surf together are allowed with no restrictions.

- An appointment system is not a requirement, but is still recommended if it helps control the size of crowds within the facility for easy physical distancing. Facility managers are responsible for ensuring that the crowd size never exceeds the maximum occupancy requirements provided in this section. Post maximum occupancy on site at all limited use pools that are not staffed during all open hours, and it must be enforced by facility staff.
- For pools that are classified as a “limited use pool” as defined in [WAC 246-260-010\(46\)](#), invited guests are allowed to use the pool as long as the maximum occupancy is posted on site and it is strictly followed by the users and enforced by the facility staff.
- The most restrictive of all below must be followed. The total number of patrons (the sum of the number of patrons in the water and the number of patrons on the deck excluding facility staff) present within the facility at any given time must not exceed:
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for between people from the same household. See [this document](#) for more information.
 - 50% of the maximum occupancy during normal times if a maximum occupancy is provided by the local building department or fire department.
 - In the water: Water surface area (square footage) of the pool divided by 72.
 - **Exception for spas:** This square footage requirement does not apply to spas. For spas, 50% of the normal maximum bather load, or the physical distancing requirement above, whichever is more restrictive is the requirement.
 - On the deck: The surface area (square footage) of all available decks (areas used regularly by patrons, and this includes all deck space (perimeter deck, pool deck, and dry deck) within the enclosure) divided by 72. Do not include areas that are not typically used by patrons or areas that are only for staff.
 - **Exception for competitive pools:** A large facility designed for competitive water sports and spectators can use the following requirements when it is being used for competitions and spectators. See the [supplemental guidance for more information](#)):
 - For athletes, coaches, and volunteers: The most restrictive of the two below applies:
 - ❖ 200 people maximum (applies to only indoor facilities).
 - ❖ Water surface area (square footage) of the pool plus the surface area of all available decks (areas used regularly by patrons) divided by 72. Do not include areas that are not typically used by patrons or areas that are only for staff.
 - For spectators (within the facility enclosure): If possible, use markings on seats to help spectators stay physically distanced from one another. Spectators in indoor facilities must use face coverings even if they are physically distanced. Plan ahead so that spectators can safely get in and out of the spectator area without breaking the physical distancing requirement except for a brief passing by each other. Most restrictive of the two below applies:

- ❖ Available spectator area (square footage) divided by 36.
 - ❖ 400 spectators maximum (applies to only indoor facilities)
 - For spectator areas that are outdoor and are outside of or separate from the pool facility enclosure: Follow the [Spectator Events guidance](#) from the Governor's Office.
- Swim meets, diving competitions, and so on are allowed, but facility managers must take extra precautions to hold these events safely by planning and organizing carefully and following all the requirements in this document.
 - For swim instructors, there is no limit on the time providing close-contact instruction (within 6 feet) with any student as long as a face shield with cloth attachment ([described above](#)) is used.
 - Water sports (e.g., water polo and water volleyball) that make it difficult to maintain minimum 6-foot physical distancing are not allowed in Phase 3. Sports that are classified under the moderate-contact category according to the [Sporting Activity guidance](#) from the Governor's Office is allowed without face coverings and physical distancing if it is played in an outdoor setting.
 - There is no limit on the number of swimmers allowed in each lane for lap-swimming. However, physical distancing requirements must be followed except when swimmers briefly swim past each other.

Guidelines that apply to Lifeguarded Facilities through all phases

Facilities that require lifeguards, according to chapters [246-260 WAC](#) and [246-262 WAC](#) must do the following in addition to all other applicable requirements in this document:

- Before reopening, develop written lifeguarding plans. Plans should address protection of lifeguards, staff, and patrons from COVID-19 transmission in addition to typical lifeguard requirements. The plans should address the following:
 - Provide education and training to lifeguards about COVID-19, transmission, and how to protect themselves and others.
 - Include lifeguard training plans at the facility to protect lifeguard instructors and trainees from potential COVID-19 transmission during training.
 - Develop a strategy to effectively lifeguard the facility while practicing physical distancing as much as possible.
 - Provide PPE to lifeguards. Appropriate types of PPE would depend on the type of rescuing activities necessary and whether the victim is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case. Refer to [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).
 - Lifeguards need to stay focused on monitoring patrons for water-safety-related risks. They should not be asked to enforce physical distancing or any other

COVID-19 related rules to patrons as that would distract them from lifesaving duties.

- Washington Recreation & Park Association has developed [guidelines](#) for lifeguarding during COVID-19 outbreak, which have been recognized by DOH.

Guidelines that apply to Waterparks in [Phases 1 and 2](#)

- **Traveling from outside of the state:** Follow the [COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#) as much as possible and inform the patrons who may be entering Washington State from outside about this advisory on the website, through social media, and on site as appropriate.
- **No waterparks are allowed to open in Phase 1.** Consult with the local health departments to inquire about food establishments, retail shops, and other businesses within waterparks.
- **Only outdoor waterparks are allowed to open in Phase 2** with the following requirements. If an outdoor waterpark includes an attraction or a feature that is indoor, those indoor portions of the waterpark must remain closed during Phase 2.
- **Businesses and activities within waterparks:**
 - Follow the [Restaurants, Taverns, Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries COVID-19 Requirements](#) for food establishments within the waterpark.
 - Follow the [In-Store Retail Operations COVID-19 Requirements](#) for retail shops within the waterpark.
 - Follow the [Theater & Performing Arts COVID-19 Requirements](#) for this type of event held within the waterpark.
- **Maximum occupancy:** Follow the most restrictive of the requirements below for deciding the maximum occupancy of the waterpark (staff excluded):
 - 25% of the total waterpark capacity during a normal time.
 - Square footage of patron accessible areas ÷ 486. “Square footage of patron accessible areas” means the total area available for patrons to access within the waterpark. This includes:
 - Bodies of water, pool decks (perimeter deck, pool deck, and dry deck), and grass area meant for and frequently used by patrons.This does not include:
 - Equipment rooms, staff-only areas and rooms, gardens with plants, and any other areas not meant for patrons.Refer to this [supplemental guidance](#) to learn more.
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for people from the same household. Adjust the maximum occupancy based on how much space is available for patrons to remain physically distanced in the parking lot, ticket sales queuing

areas, locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms, and any other areas where patrons tend to congregate.

- **Controlling crowd size:** Use one of the following or a combination of the following to control the size of the crowd within the waterpark (mandatory) and for each attraction within the waterpark (as much as possible).
 - An appointment/reservation system
 - Patrons must contact the facility in advance to make an appointment to enter the facility or to use a particular attraction with a specified time, date, location, and number of patrons.
 - A timed entry/session length system
 - Patrons are allowed to enter the facility or use particular attractions only at specified times predetermined by the facility manager (e.g., once every hour) in order to control the crowd size. It may be necessary to require patrons to leave the facility or a particular attraction at specified times.
 - A virtual queuing system
 - This is a similar concept to the appointment/reservation system except that it can be used for each attraction to prevent patrons from gathering while waiting in lines.

- **Indoor spaces:** Use a timed entry system or an alternative system to allow patrons into the locker and shower rooms to ensure that the crowd size in the locker rooms and shower rooms remains reasonable for physical distancing at all times. Discourage patrons from lingering and loitering in these locations. Rearrange furniture and close some of the showers as practical and permissible to ensure physical distancing. Patrons must wear masks in those locations except when they are actively taking a shower.

- **Directing crowd:** Station staff to direct patrons at high traffic and bottle-neck areas so that they do not congregate.

- **Queuing:**
 - Indoor queuing is strictly prohibited.
 - Install, if necessary and possible, barriers (e.g., Plexiglas shields) on switchback lines/queues to separate patrons who cannot remain physically distanced in an outdoor environment. Make sure that barriers do not create an area of stagnant air, which defeats the purpose of the barrier for COVID-19 transmission prevention. If outdoor and physically distanced, masks are not required.

- **Other requirements:**
 - Provide physical partitions and visual cues on walls and on the ground to control the crowd movements and positions whenever possible.
 - Avoid handling of paper (physical) tickets and cash as much as possible to minimize coming in contact with contaminated surfaces and close contact between staff and patrons.

- Make face coverings available on site for patrons who forget to bring their own, who lose theirs, or whose masks get damaged. Because face covering must be put on and taken off while patrons use different parts of the waterpark, it is very likely that they get lost or damaged.
- Provide containers such as Ziploc bags on site or recommend patrons to bring their own containers to store their face coverings while not being used. This is to reduce the chance that they get wet, damaged, lost, or picked up by others.
- Face coverings should not be brought into the water because they may get lost and cause blockage of pool recirculation equipment. They can also pose drowning and other injury hazards.
- If amusement rides are offered, adjust seat loading patterns to ensure physical distance at all times except for people of the same household. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendation for safety.

Guidelines that Apply to Waterparks in [Phase 3](#)

- Both indoor and outdoor waterparks are allowed to open.
- **Businesses and activities within waterparks:**
 - Follow the [Restaurants, Taverns, Breweries, Wineries and Distilleries COVID-19 Requirements](#) for food establishments within the waterpark.
 - Follow the [In-Store Retail Operations COVID-19 Requirements](#) for retail shops within the waterpark.
 - Follow the [Theater & Performing Arts COVID-19 Requirements](#) for this type of event held within the waterpark.
- **Maximum occupancy:** Follow the most restrictive of the requirements below for deciding the maximum occupancy of the waterpark (staff excluded):
 - 50% of the total waterpark capacity during a normal time.
 - Square footage of patron accessible areas ÷ 162. "Square footage of patron accessible areas" means the total area available for patrons to access within the waterpark. This includes:
 - Bodies of water, pool decks (perimeter deck, pool deck, and dry deck), and grass area meant for and frequently used by patrons.
 This does not include:
 - Equipment rooms, staff-only areas and rooms, gardens with plants, and any other areas not meant for patrons.
 Refer to this [supplemental guidance](#) to learn more.
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for people from the same household. Adjust the maximum occupancy based on how much space is available for patrons to remain physically distanced in the parking lot, ticket sales queuing areas, locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms, and any other areas where patrons tend to congregate.

- **Controlling crowd size:** Use of an appointment/reservation system or timed entry system is not a requirement but is recommended if it helps control the size of the crowd within the facility. Facility managers are responsible for ensuring that the crowd size never exceeds the maximum occupancy requirements provided in this section.
- **Indoor spaces:** Use a timed entry system or an alternative system to allow patrons into the locker and shower rooms to ensure that the crowd size in the locker rooms and shower rooms remain reasonable for physical distancing at all times. Discourage patrons from lingering and loitering in these locations. Rearrange furniture and close some of the showers as practical and permissible to ensure physical distancing. Patrons must wear masks in those locations except when they are actively taking a shower.
- **Directing crowd:** Station staff to direct patrons at high traffic and bottle-neck areas so that they do not congregate.
- **Queuing:** Install, if necessary and possible, barriers (e.g., Plexiglas shields) on switchback lines/queues to separate patrons who cannot remain physically distanced. Make sure that barriers do not create an area of stagnant air, which defeats the purpose of the barrier for COVID-19 transmission prevention. If outdoor and physically distanced, masks are not required.
- **Other requirements:**
 - Provide physical partitions and visual cues on walls and on the ground to control the crowd movements and positions whenever possible.
 - Avoid handling of paper (physical) tickets and cash as much as possible to minimize coming in contact with contaminated surfaces and close contact between staff and patrons.
 - Make face coverings available on site for patrons who forget to bring their own, who lose theirs, or whose masks get damaged. Because face covering must be put on and taken off while patrons use different parts of the waterpark, it is very likely that they get lost or damaged.
 - Provide containers such as Ziploc bags on site or recommend patrons to bring their own containers to store their face coverings while not being used. This is to reduce the chance that they get wet, damaged, lost, or picked up by others.
 - Face coverings should not be brought into the water because they may get lost and cause blockage of pool recirculation equipment. They can also pose drowning and other injury hazards.
 - If amusement rides are offered, adjust seat loading patterns to ensure physical distance at all times except for people of the same household. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's recommendation for safety.

Guidelines that Apply to Standalone Splash Parks in [Phases 1 and 2](#)

- **No standalone splash parks are allowed to open in Phase 1.**

- **Only outdoor standalone splash parks** are allowed to open in Phase 2 with the following requirements:
 - **Maximum occupancy:** Follow the most restrictive of the requirements below for deciding the maximum occupancy of the standalone splash park:
 - 25% of the total spray pool capacity during a normal time.
 - Square footage of the spray pool ÷ 162. “Square footage of the spray pool” means the wet deck surface area (the deck that is constantly wetted by the spray features combined with its perimeter deck (4 feet wide)). This does not include areas beyond the perimeter deck. See this [supplemental guidance](#) to learn more.
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for people from the same household. If restrooms or shower rooms are provided for this facility, adjust the maximum occupancy limit to avoid crowding in those indoor areas.
 - **Controlling crowd size:** Surround the standalone splash park with physical barriers such as temporary fencing and rope/chain barriers, and post signs to keep patrons out. Use one of the following or a combination of the following to control the size of the crowd within the facility. In any case, facility staff must be stationed to confirm appointments, restrict patron entry into the facility, and monitor patron activities. If this is not possible or practical, keep the standalone splash park closed.
 - **An appointment/reservation system:** Patrons must contact the facility in advance to make an appointment to enter the facility with a specified time, date, location, and number of patrons.
 - **A timed entry system:** Patrons are allowed to enter the facility or use particular attractions only at specified times predetermined by the facility manager (e.g., once every hour) in order to control the crowd size. It may be necessary to use a patron rotation system to ensure that some patrons leave as new ones arrive.
 - **A virtual queuing system:** This is a similar concept to the appointment/reservation system except that it can be used to prevent patrons from gathering while waiting in lines.
 - **Other requirements:**
 - Post information on websites, through social media, and on site regarding maximum occupancy and other COVID-19 related rules.
 - Provide physical partitions and visual cues to control the crowd movements and positions whenever possible.
 - Require patrons who are on the perimeter deck to wear face coverings if indoor.
 - Patrons who are actively engaging in play activities on the wet deck are not required to wear face coverings, but they must stay physically distanced from one another unless they are from the same household.
 - Rearrange/remove benches, chairs, tables, and other furniture to ensure physical distancing.

Guidelines that apply to Standalone Splash Parks in [Phase 3](#)

Both indoor and outdoor standalone splash parks are allowed to open in Phase 3 with the following requirements:

- **Maximum occupancy:** Follow the most restrictive of the requirements below for deciding the maximum occupancy of the standalone splash park:
 - 50% of the total spray pool capacity during a normal time.
 - Square footage of the spray pool ÷ 72. “Square footage of the spray pool” means the wet deck surface area (the deck that is constantly wetted by the spray features combined with its perimeter deck (4-feet wide). This does not include areas beyond the perimeter deck. See this [supplemental guidance](#) to learn more.
 - All patrons are able to comfortably and reasonably practice six-foot minimum physical distancing at all times except for people from the same household. If restrooms or shower rooms are provided for this facility, adjust the maximum occupancy limit to avoid crowding in those indoor areas.

- **Controlling crowd size:** Maximum occupancy must be posted on site and it must be enforced by staff. If this is not possible or practical, keep the standalone splash pad closed.

- **Other requirements:**
 - Post information on websites, through social media, and on site regarding maximum occupancy and other COVID-19 related rules.
 - Provide physical partitions and visual cues to control the crowd movements and positions whenever possible.
 - Require patrons who are on the perimeter deck to wear face coverings if indoor.
 - Patrons who are actively engaging in play activities on the wet deck are not required to wear face coverings, but they must stay physically distanced from one another unless they are from the same household.
 - Rearrange/remove benches, chairs, tables, and other furniture to ensure physical distancing.

Reopening by Facility Type and Pool Type

Facility Type	Pool Type	Pay Particular Attention to	Additional Notes
Athletic gym pools Private club pools	Swimming pools*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One person per lane for lap swimming is recommended ● Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms ● Lifeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● By appointment only in Phases 1 and 2. Appointment system recommended in Phase 3.

Municipal pools		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User rotation recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Absolutely no more than 2 people in each lane for individual lap swimming, and no more than 4 for competitive swim team practices in Phases 1 and 2. • Lazy rivers are allowed to open in Phases 1 and 2 if the river feature is turned off or adjusted to allow for patrons to maintain control of their body movements. • **Only <u>outdoor</u> waterpark like features regulated under WAC 246-262 are allowed to open in Phase 2. Both indoor and outdoor facilities are allowed in Phase 3. • ***Activity pools with play features are not allowed in Phase 1 even if they are regulated under WAC 246-260. Only outdoor activity pools are allowed to open in Phase 2. Activity pools with features (both indoor and outdoor) are allowed in Phase 3.
	Wading pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Therapy pools (exercise pools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Waterpark like features**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Activity pools***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spas may allow only one person at a time • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
Waterparks (amusement park-like)	Swimming pools*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person per lane for lap swimming is recommended • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only outdoor waterparks and splash pads are allowed to open in Phase 2. Indoor waterparks and splash pads are not allowed to open in Phase 1

Splash pads (standalone spray parks)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User rotation recommended 	<p>or Phase 2. Waterparks and splash pads (both indoor and outdoor) are allowed to open in Phase 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By appointment/ reservation/ or timed entry only in Phase 2. Appointment system recommended in Phase 3. • *Absolutely no more than 2 people in each lane for individual lap swimming, and no more than 4 for competitive swim team practices in Phases 1 and 2. • **Lazy rivers are allowed to open in Phases 1 and 2 if the river feature is turned off or adjusted to allow for patrons to maintain control of their body movements. • ***Outdoor wave pools are allowed to open in Phase 2 (indoor waves pools in Phase 3) if the wave feature is turned off or adjusted to allow for patrons to maintain control of their body movements.
	Wading pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Activity pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
	Waterslides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding 	
	Splash pads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • User rotation recommended 	
	Surf pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow only one person to surf at a time • Spectator control needed • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding 	
	Lazy Rivers** Wave pools***	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving water makes it very difficult to maintain physical distancing • Lazy rivers regulated under WAC 246-260 are allowed to open in Modified Phase 1 and Phase 2 if the river feature is turned off. • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User rotation recommended 	
	Diving pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only one person dives at a time from each diving board and the pool must be cleared before next divers enter the pool • Spectator control needed • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • lifeguarding 	
	Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spas may allow only one person at a time • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	
<p>Schools</p> <p>If open to the community. Student activities as part of the educational requirement must follow school district guidelines as well.</p>	Swimming pools*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person per lane for lap swimming is recommended • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • lifeguarding • User rotation recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Absolutely no more than 2 people in each lane for individual lap swimming, and no more than 4 for competitive swim team practices in Phases 1 and 2. • By appointment only in Phases 1 and 2. Appointment system recommended in Phase 3.
	Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spas may allow only one person at a time • Discourage people from using communal areas 	
	Diving pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spectator control needed • Only one person dives at a time from each diving board and the pool must be cleared before next divers enter the pool • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • lifeguarding 	
<p>Apartments</p> <p>Condominiums</p>	Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Educate/encourage patrons to practice physical distancing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an appointment system as much as possible

Mobile home parks HOAs Boarding homes Fraternity Sorority		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourage people from using communal areas • User rotation recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post maximum occupancy and enforce it
Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spas may allow only one person at a time • Discourage people from using communal areas 		
Wading pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Educate/encourage patrons to practice physical distancing • Discourage people from using communal areas • User rotation recommended 		
Hotels/motels B&B Campgrounds RV parks	Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Educate/encourage patrons to practice physical distancing • Discourage people from using communal areas • User rotation recommended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an appointment system as much as possible • Post maximum occupancy and enforce it
Spas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smaller spas may allow only one person at a time • Discourage people from using communal areas 		
Wading pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide plenty of space to keep unrelated individuals separate • Educate/encourage patrons to practice physical distancing • Discourage people from using communal areas • User rotation recommended 		
Float tanks	One person tank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice physical distancing and environmental hygiene described above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By appointment only
	Multiple person tank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice physical distancing and environmental hygiene described above 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floaters are from the same household 	
Designated Swim Areas (bathing beaches)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing encouraged/enforced by the owner • Physical distancing and disinfection for locker rooms, shower rooms, bathrooms • Lifeguarding • Discourage people from using communal areas 	

More COVID-19 Information and Resources

Stay up-to-date on the [current COVID-19 situation in Washington](#), [Governor Inslee’s proclamations](#), [symptoms](#), [how it spreads](#), and [how and when people should get tested](#). See our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

A person’s race/ethnicity or nationality does not, itself, put them at greater risk of COVID-19. However, data are revealing that communities of color are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This is due to the effects of racism, and in particular, structural racism, that leaves some groups with fewer opportunities to protect themselves and their communities. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Share only accurate information to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

- [WA State Department of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [WA State Coronavirus Response \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Find Your Local Health Department or District](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Stigma Reduction Resources](#)

Have more questions? Call our COVID-19 Information hotline: **1-800-525-0127**

Monday – 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday and [observed state holidays](#), 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. For interpretative services, **press #** when they answer and **say your language**. For questions about your own health, COVID-19 testing, or testing results, please contact a health care provider.