

Guidance for Water Recreation Facilities

April 24, 2020; Updated May 11, 2020

Water recreation facilities include:

1. Municipal pools and spas
2. Waterparks
3. Private club and athletic club pools and spas
4. Apartment/boarding home/condominium pools and spas
5. Hotel/motel pools and spas
6. Home owners association pools and spas
7. Camp/RV/mobile home park pools and spas
8. Sorority/fraternity pools and spas
9. Splash pads
10. Swim beaches
11. Swim/scuba schools
12. Float tanks

Preventing COVID-19 from entering water recreation facilities

All facilities must comply with restrictions issued by the Governor or your local jurisdiction concerning banning certain sizes of gatherings to ensure proper social distancing.

Transmission of COVID-19 through pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds

There is [no evidence](#) that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools, hot tubs or spas, or water playgrounds. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools, hot tubs or spas, and water playgrounds should inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Use precautions recommended by KDHE and the CDC to minimize spread of COVID-19 through person to person contact.

1. Wash hands often with soap and water.
2. Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
3. Avoid contact with people who are sick.
4. Stay home when sick and avoid close contact with others.
5. Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing and sneezing with your elbow or a tissue.
6. Shower before using the pool. For HOA's and apartments, shower in your residence before going to the pool.

Make sure all handwashing stations and shower rooms are fully stocked with soap, hot and cold water, and single-use towels.

Keeping swimming pools properly cleaned and disinfected

Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (with chlorine or bromine) of swimming pools should kill the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Maintain proper disinfectant levels (2-10 parts per million free chlorine or 3-8 ppm bromine) and pH (7.2-7.8).
- CDC's [Model Aquatic Health Code](#) has more recommendations to prevent illness and injuries at public pools in parks.
- Viruses shed by infected individuals in pools and spas would most likely float on the water surface with other debris. The virus could also be present in mucus secreted by an infected individual, which may protect the virus from chlorine and bromine. These conditions make disinfection less effective, so it is important that overflow outlets are working properly to skim the surface of the water. Overflow outlets are typically skimmers or gutters that use the surface tension of the water to pull debris into the recirculation system and filters the water. It is important to note that no pool filters are efficient enough to filter out viruses.

Sources

- Guidance for Park Administrators; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
April 10, 2020
- Water and COVID-19 FAQs; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
April 3, 2020
- COVID-19 Guidance: Water Recreation Facilities; Washington State Department of Health
April 6, 2020
- Guidance for Water Recreation Facilities: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html> May 11, 2020

