



MONTANA MUNICIPAL INTERLOCAL AUTHORITY RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

Please distribute to all appropriate personnel.

Date:	May 27, 2020
To:	MMIA Member Cities and Towns
RE:	Update: Municipal Pool Reopening after COVID-19

Municipal pools may open during Phase 2 of the Governor’s reopening plan, ***if your municipality can follow distancing and sanitation guidelines.*** Guidelines for the Phase 2 reopening have requirements for both pools in gyms, and pools in licensed public accommodation facilities (i.e. hotels). Municipal pools follow the guidelines for the pools in gyms and include:

- Train workers on symptom awareness and proper handwashing procedures.
- Pool classes may continue if:
 - All social distancing requirements must be observed during class; and
 - Any equipment used can be easily cleaned and disinfected between users.
- Youth swim lessons may be offered in-line with previous guidance for Phase 1, which includes youth activities should avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people in circumstances that do not readily allow for appropriate physical distancing.
- Front desk/gate attendant tracks occupancy, incoming and outgoing to ensure maximum occupancy does not exceed 75% capacity of normal bather load.
- Signage must be posted with the following or substantially similar wording:
 - “Patrons with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using this facility.”
 - Signs shall be positioned for effective visual observation by patrons, such as on the entry way door.
- No congregating in waiting areas, patrons should wait in an appropriately spaced line or way that observes social distancing.
- Locker rooms should be monitored by a designated staff member to ensure they are not becoming crowded and that social distancing is being observed.
- Signage must be posted on the locker room door with the following or substantially similar wording: “Observe social distancing while using this facility. No loitering in common areas.”
- Social distancing should be applied in all common areas.



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- 6-foot spacing between unassociated patrons (i.e. not family members) in the pool.
- 6-foot spacing between groups of no more than 10 (i.e. family groups and unrelated individuals must maintain 6-foot separation) in the pool.
- Space pool deck tables and chairs to facilitate a 6-foot distance.
- Recommend, where possible, use of buoys and floating pool ropes to mark off lanes or areas of pool for separation of large swimming areas.
- Recommend, where possible, marking stairs and walkways with directional arrows to keep in/out traffic separated.

The MMIA advises municipalities spend time doing an analysis and developing a plan for how they will manage their pools in accordance with the capacity, distancing, and sanitation guidelines in the Governor’s directive. The County Health Officer may be a valuable resource in identifying the feasibility of reopening the pool, as compliance with these guidelines in swimming pool operations may be difficult. While the MMIA recognizes considerations other than liability exposures may need to be factored in to the analysis, we advise you to fall back on public safety considerations if you do not feel confident in managing the operations of your pools in accordance with public health guidelines.

National Guidance

The following are guidelines put together by nationally recognized organizations which may be helpful in your planning.

- [CDC Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#)
- [CDC Coronavirus Swimming Pool Cleaning and Disinfecting](#)
- [USA Swimming COVID-19 Team Resources](#)
- [Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code: COVID-19 Resources for Aquatic Industry](#)