

# Advice from Durham Region Health Department for Recreational Water Facilities\*



- ✓ Be aware of the most current, credible public health information/recommendations, and communicate these to your staff and the public. To determine if your pool is permitted to reopen, refer to the restrictions set out by the province.
- ✓ Recreational water facilities must comply with the Public Pools Regulation (O. Reg 565).
- ✓ A safety plan, outlining how to protect staff and the public against COVID-19 within the facility, including screening, physical distancing, masks, cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces and objects and the wearing of personal protective equipment, must be made available upon request. A copy of the safety plan must be posted in a conspicuous location within the facility for viewing by staff and the public. For more details visit the Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) Safety Plan Template, DRHD COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan and the Province's document Develop Your COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan.



Post signs at all entrances directing those who are ill not to enter. Advise staff and the public to stay home if they are experiencing **symptoms of COVID-19** or have been in close contact with anyone who has been sick with the virus. Staff should contact their health care provider or an **assessment centre** to get tested.



For contact tracing purposes, maintain a monthly record of all staff, essential visitors, and bathers admitted to the facility including full name, phone number and date of visit.



All bathers should take a shower with soap and water prior to entering the pool area.



Ensure properly stocked, frequently cleaned and disinfected hand sanitizer stations are made available at the entrance and throughout the pool area for everyone to sanitize their hands as required.



Ensure frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces (such as door handles, hand railings, showers, chairs, washrooms, etc.). All safety equipment and shared items must be cleaned and disinfected after each use (e.g. non-absorbent water toys, life jackets, etc.). Recommend cleaning and disinfecting twice per day at a minimum while in operation. Use only disinfectants that have a Drug Identification Number (DIN) approved by **Health Canada**. Follow the manufacturer's direction for contact time. Maintain cleaning and disinfecting logs.



Staff training must be provided to ensure staff are kept up to date with COVID-19 policies and procedures.



Recommend scheduling visits to the pool by appointment to reduce crowding in and around the pool areas. Bather load for the pool must not be exceeded.



Have designated roles and responsibilities for staff. Avoid having multiple staff doing the same task within a space. Stagger staff shifts and break times. Ensure facility measures are communicated to staff and enforced.



Patrons entering indoor areas of recreational water facilities must provide proof they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before entering the facility, subject to exemptions. For detailed guidance visit the Ministry of Health's **Proof of Vaccination Guidance** document.



First aid and resuscitation protocols should be updated routinely to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.



Active screening must be implemented to ensure the health of the patrons, staff, volunteers, and essential visitors. Screening logs must be maintained for 1 month and only disclosed when requested by the medical officer of health or a public health inspector under the Health Protection and Promotion Act. For detailed guidance visit the Ministry of Health's website **Ontario COVID-19 Screening**.

The use of masks is mandatory for all staff and bathers when in common areas such as changerooms. A face shield is not a substitute for a mask. Bathers are not required to wear a mask when actively engaged in recreational water activity.

#### Mask requirements for staff:

- Staff are required to wear a mask while in the facility. If 2 metres physical distancing cannot be maintained, personal protective equipment is required.
- Lifeguards are required to wear a mask during active duty while on the deck.
- Lifeguards are not required to wear a mask while stationed in lifeguard towers and a best effort should be employed to ensure physical distancing.

