

Governor Bullock has issued a new guidance that allows pools at licensed public accommodations to operate as part of the Phase 1 reopening, subject to certain conditions. The Governor's guidelines and conditions are as follows:

Phase 1 Guidance for Pools at Licensed Public Accommodations (Hotels, Motels, Bed and Breakfasts, Tourist Homes, etcetera)

Public Accommodation Pools are allowed to operate with reduced capacity of 50% of normal bather load and basic compliance with social distancing requirements.

The CDC has indicated that properly maintained pool water inactivates the virus. It is critical that pools that have shut down during this time or reduced maintenance follow proper re-opening procedures and sampling of chemical parameters to ensure water is safe for use, prior to opening to the public. Operators should work with their Certified Pool Operator and/or local/state sanitarian if questions arise regarding re-opening.

If a facility has had a confirmed COVID-19 case they should follow the CDCs facility environmental cleaning procedures for deck areas, seating, locker rooms, and other areas of the establishment frequented by swimmers.

Public Accommodation Pools (Pools at Hotels, Motels, Bed and Breakfasts, Tourist Homes, etcetera):

- Only registered guests can use the facility;
- Front desk/gate attendant tracks occupancy, incoming and outgoing to ensure maximum occupancy does not exceed 50% capacity of normal bather load;
- Signage must be posted with the following or substantially similar wording. Signs shall be positioned for effective visual observation by hotel guests, such as on the entry way door:
 - “Hotel guests with fever, shortness of breath, a cough, or other COVID-19 symptoms must refrain from using the pool.”;
- No congregating in waiting areas, patrons should wait in an appropriately spaced line or way that observes social distancing;
- Locker rooms should remain closed, except for showering before and after swimming. Since only registered hotel guests are allowed to use the pool, individuals should change in their rooms;
- Social distancing should be applied in all common areas;
- 6 foot spacing between unassociated swimmers (i.e. not family members);
- 6 foot spacing between groups of no more than 10 (i.e. family groups and unrelated individuals must maintain 6 foot separation);

- Space deck tables and chairs to facilitate 6 foot spacing;
- Recommend, where possible, use 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.

I have verified with the Governor's Office that this directive applies to swimming pools AND hot tubs at licensed public accommodations. Hot tubs or spas are allowed to operate under this directive, subject to compliance with the constraints described above.

While local health officers have the authority to issue orders that are more restrictive than the Governor's directive, I have no intention of issuing any such order at this time. As we have said repeatedly related to the phased reopening of our economy, we will be carefully monitoring COVID-19 in terms of case counts and burden on our local healthcare system. In the event that more restrictive measures are required at some point, the current guidance might change.

Unless more restrictive guidelines are issued, all licensed public accommodations must follow these guidelines if they choose to operate a public pool or hot tub. When RiverStone Health's sanitarians inspect public accommodation pools and hot tubs, compliance with any current limitations, such as those above, will be assessed as part of the inspection process.

Thank you.

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