

Guidance for Recreational Water Facilities

Before contacting your area public health inspector (PHI) to arrange for a permit inspection to reopen, conduct a self-assessment inspection of your recreational water facility to ensure compliance with the *Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation (MR 132/97)*. This regulation can be found at: web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=132/97

Contact your area PHI to schedule an opening inspection once your facility is **completely ready to open**. Please be aware that due to limited staff and resources, and the number of facilities in each area, there may be a waiting period of seven to 14 working days for an opening inspection to take place. If a pool is not ready to open, there may be a further delay in receiving your health permit to operate.

Operational Guidelines to Follow Once a Recreational Water Facility is Allowed to Open (Phase Two)

Once a recreational water facility is allowed to open during Phase Two, operators must be aware special procedures should be implemented to help prevent any future transmission of COVID-19.

Swimming pools may reopen if measures are implemented to ensure members of the public are reasonably able to maintain a separation of at least two metres from others, except for brief exchanges.

All public and semi-public recreational water facilities should ensure:

- Occupancy is limited to 50 per cent of normal business levels and are able to maintain a separation of at least two metres between people.
- Staff and clients use the online self-screening tool before attending the facility. <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
- Staff and clients stay home when ill with COVID-19 symptoms. People identified as symptomatic should be instructed to call Health Links – Info Santé.
- Saunas and steam rooms remain closed. Whirlpools may be opened only if they comply with bather load restrictions and physical distancing requirements of one person per two square metres.
- Signs showing the reduced bather loads need be posted in at least one location adjacent to the pool basins. Additional signage must be posted throughout the facility indicating physical distancing measures.
- Signs need to be posted externally indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols.
- Hand sanitizer needs to be available at entrances and exits for public and staff use.

- Social distancing must be established in entrance areas and lobbies of indoor facilities.
 - Staff are present to manage entry points, physical distancing, control access and limit entry to accommodate the occupancy allowance.
 - Measures are in place to avoid groups congregating at entry points for classes/general use.
 - Place markers such as tape or cones are placed every two metres to provide visitors with visible queues that support physical distancing.
 - Drop-in use is discouraged.
 - Any seating in the receiving area is set up to maintain a minimum two metres of separation between people.
 - A booking system is in place to reserve blocks of time for activities and classes in advance to assist in maintaining reduced occupancy requirements.
 - Staff encourage cashless forms of payment, whenever possible.
 - Plans are in place to determine how capacity will be enforced.
 - Areas that may need to be closed off are identified.
 - Face masks are not worn while in the water.

Additional Considerations and Information

- Establish and mark zones or sections of the pool to maximize separation.
- Allow sufficient time between activities to clean the pool deck and locker rooms, paying particular attention to frequently-touched areas including, such as railings, door handles, washroom doors and shower stalls.
- Establish safe places for guests to wait their turn while remaining apart.
- Determine how mandated capacity limits and access will be monitored for non-guarded, semi-public pools (e.g. attendant/screener at pool entrance, video options in public areas).
- Post signage in semi-public pools reminding visitors to ask for supplies to clean and disinfect chairs or other surfaces before using.
- Require an adult be present in the water in close proximity to small children and non-swimmers to help maintain physical distancing even where lifeguards are present.

Lifeguards

- Monitoring physical distancing **must not** be the responsibility of any on-duty lifeguard. A lifeguard's primary responsibility is to watch over the bathers while they are in or around the facility and to supervise bather safety. Facility operators/owners must identify additional staffing requirements and hire staff to assist in monitoring physical distancing.

GROUP CLASSES

- Continue to offer virtual classes or training where possible.
- Allow group exercise classes if participants are able to maintain a distance of two metres apart throughout the class.
- Allow adequate time to disinfect equipment and surfaces before each class.
- Do not use shared equipment unless able to disinfect between users. Equipment that is difficult to clean, such as foam rollers and yoga blocks, should not be used.

First Aid, Aquatic Rescue and Pool Instructional Equipment

- Personal instructional equipment should be provided by the participants (e.g. goggles, swim caps, masks, snorkels, etc.)
- Equipment should not be shared with others in the class/course. For each pool session, provide each participant with the equipment they will need for the class. At the end of the class, ensure that the equipment is cleaned and disinfected, and ready for the next class.
- During practice sessions for first aid and lifeguard training, ensure that each participant is equipped with, and is wearing, their own gloves and personal pocket masks.

LOCKER ROOMS:

- If locker rooms are used, consider modifying their use to maintain physical distancing.
- Restrict the number of people in locker rooms and restrooms.
 - Do not allow guests to congregate in waiting areas for access. This process can include floor markings, outdoor distancing, waiting in cars, etc.
 - Consider an exit from the facility separate from the entrance.
 - Remove common-use items from locker rooms.
 - Make disinfectant spray or wipes available for patrons to disinfect locker contact surfaces before and after use.
 - Post signage for guidance on shower area use to maintain physical distancing.
- Ensure enhanced and frequent cleaning and disinfection of locker rooms by staff. Cleaning schedules should be posted to ensure staff and patrons are aware of cleaning frequencies.

Cleaning and Maintenance

- Continue routine pool maintenance.
- Establish a routine cleaning schedule:
 - before opening for the day
 - between shifts
 - when closing for the day

Clean frequently-touched surfaces every two to three hours or more frequently, if required, including:

- doors and door handles for entrance/exits, offices, staff rooms, training rooms, change rooms, equipment rooms, etc.
- counters and desks in lobbies and offices
- toilets, urinals, sinks
- on deck hand rails, slide hand rails, lifeguard chairs, rescue equipment, chair lifts, etc.
- specialized equipment including control knobs and levers for water sprayers, hot tub/spa jets, etc.
- pool toys, kickboards, exercise equipment (e.g. dumbbells, swim fins, goggles etc.)
- light switches
- deck furniture (or consider requiring patrons to bring their own)
- exercise equipment, emergency phones
- touch pads and keyless readers
- Separate cleaned equipment from equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected.
- Remember that common touch areas include those in both customer and employee accessed areas. These surfaces need to be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day, or as required using:
 - diluted bleach e.g. 20 ml (4 teaspoons) bleach for every litre of water
 - alcohol solutions with at least 60 per cent alcohol or
 - Health Canada approved household disinfectants
- A list of disinfectants can be found on Health Canada's website at www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html.