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Community Pool Guidance in the setting of COVID-19

Recent guidelines are being provided so that managers can make the correct and responsible decisions to reopen their pools and safely protect their members. This information is applicable for pools that are part of a housing complex, hotels and RV parks which are operating, pools associated with golf courses and private membership pools (including Homeowner Association Pools). They do not apply to "Public Pools" which serve the entire community. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has consistently stated that pools are at low risk for COVID-19 due to the chlorination and sanitizing of the pool water. However, there still remains a significant risk of contracting COVID-19 if social distancing and sanitizing are inadequate.

On May 12, 2020, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released guidelines for the Hotel industry with regards to allowing use of swimming pools to reopen for hotel guests.

Those business entities that plan to reopen their pools should submit a "reopening plan" to Tehama County Public Health at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCCOVIDbizplans>

These plans should include the following:

Disinfection Plan

- Create a written disinfection plan that identifies frequently touched surfaces, a schedule, and a person to complete disinfection tasks
- Use an EPA approved disinfectant on commonly touched surfaces, including but not limited to:
 - Pool area- gate, latch, tables, chairs, drinking fountain, pool handrails, and countertops
 - Shared restrooms/locker rooms - door handles, light switches, faucets, latches and dispensers

Post signage

- Post signage reminding residents to wash their hands frequently with soap and water, cover coughs and sneezes, and to avoid the pool area if they are experiencing symptoms of illness including a fever of 100° F or above, sore throat, runny nose, chills, not feeling well, sneezing, coughing, abdominal pain or diarrhea

Implement physical distancing protocols and hand hygiene recommendations

- Six feet separation is required. If pool lanes are in place then the swimmers should limit themselves one person to a lane
- If a group class is held then the maximum number of participants, including the instructor, is ten
- Implement scheduled time slots to control the flow of participants and prevent exceeding the maximal allowed
- Lounge chairs and/or tables should be properly distanced. If they cannot be distanced, they should be secured and stored
- Participants should wear a cloth face covering when traveling through common areas where it may not be possible to maintain physical distancing, including to and from the pool and shared restrooms/locker rooms
- Provide, or ask the participants to bring hand sanitizer
- Frequently check shared restrooms/locker rooms to ensure they are stocked with hand soap and paper towels

For Further information:

- Centers for Communicable Disease Prevention and Control:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>
- California Department of Public Health:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/pdf/guidance-hotels.pdf>
- Tehama County Health Services Agency website:
<https://www.tehamacohealthservices.net/>

If you have questions about your pool plan and need help determining if it's allowable, please contact us at publichealth@tchsa.net.