Swimming Pool and Splash Pad Guidance

As preparations are made for reopening swimming pools and splash pads, the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) wants to assist facilities in remaining as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please find helpful guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at the following website: Aquatic Venues.

While risk-reducing actions can decrease the chance of spreading COVID-19, measures such as those outlined in this document will not fully remove the possibility of infection with COVID-19 while the virus remains in the community. To support swimming pools and splash pads in operating safely, and as a partner with our local community, JCDH provides the following technical direction on guidelines and other best practices. Specific plans should be developed for each facility to promote COVID-19 safety with special focus on large contact surface areas and unique features such as slides.

Establish protocols to maintain at least six (6) feet physical distance among people

- Social distancing must be observed and promoted to patrons and staff to encourage safety.
  - This means 6 feet of distance should be maintained between each patron and each employee.
  - A limitation in operating capacity should be enacted to allow for 6 feet of distance.

Establish protocols to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19 among employees and patrons

- Consider altered hours of operation to allow thorough cleaning and sanitation.
- Wearing of a facemask/face covering by patrons and staff where practical.
- Clearly post signs on entrances stating any patent with a fever or any other symptom consistent with COVID-19, including diarrhea, may not enter the facility or recreational area.
- Adhere strictly to normal rules regarding sick patrons on entering or remaining at the facility; consideration should be given to symptom screening of people entering the facility.
- All staff should wash hands frequently and maintain a distance of 6 feet between patrons as much as possible.
- High contact surfaces utilized during normal operation should be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Staff knowledgeable on CDC guidance for pool and splash pad safety should be onsite during operation to address any problems that may arise.
- Check temperatures of staff with a noncontact thermometer. If the temperature is greater than 100.4 °F or if an employee reports symptoms, the employee should be excluded from work.
  - Employee should also self-monitor and stay at home if s/he has any COVID-19-like illness symptoms.

Establish measures to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19

- Direct the flow of patrons and employees through the facility to reduce person-to-person contact when possible.
- Cancel swimming lessons that require the instructor to have physical contact with a patron.
- High contact surfaces utilized during normal operation should be cleaned and disinfected frequently.
- Proper chlorination levels should be maintained in the pool water as required by JCDH regulations.
- Staff should remain onsite to ensure social distancing rules are followed. Policies should be developed and implemented to exclude persons who do not follow the social distancing rules.
- Remove shared objects such as pool toys and portable equipment like basketball goals and volleyball nets.
- Consider closing slides and diving boards not directly exposed to the sun.

Strategies for working with public health to notify patrons and staff potentially exposed to COVID-19 while at the facility

- If a facility learns of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, the confidentiality of the COVID-19 infected person should be respected and maintained at all times.
- Develop plans for temporary facility closure to properly disinfect and ensure other employees and patrons are not infected.
- Consult the Jefferson County Department of Health for guidance for specific situations as necessary.