



YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT

Prevention Is Our Business

Effective August 1st, 2020

Modified Phase 1 Water Recreation (Pools) Toolkit

Purpose: To provide education and guidance on how pools can open and expand operations safely and within the scope of regulations for Modified Phase 1 of Washington State's Safe Start re-opening process.

The Yakima Health District is committed to the health and safety of our community members, as well as wanting our local businesses to be able to operate. To ensure that both is happening we are reaching out to provide guidance specific to your business to help answer questions you may have and to give you the information needed to operate your business while also protecting community member from the spread of COVID-19 in our county.

With this letter you will find the guidance document for Modified Phase 1 operations of pools. This outlines what operations are allowed in your business during Modified Phase 1, as well as addressing occupancy limitations, sanitation, fitting rooms and customer traffic. It is imperative that all our businesses operate within the scope of Modified Phase 1 regulations, so the spread of COVID-19 continues to decline, thus allowing us to eventually transition into Phase 2 and beyond.

We also want to be available to you to answer any additional questions you might have. However, there are a lot of businesses in Yakima County and we believe that a timely response is necessary during these unprecedented times. We are happy to let you know that we have partnered with many local entities to help distribute this information and answer questions you might have. A list of contacts is also included with this toolkit.

Modified Phase 1 Staffed Water Recreation Facilities (Public and Private) COVID-19 Reopening Requirements

Included here:

- Staffed water recreation facilities for appointment only lap swimming and small group swim lessons (public and private)

Not included here: Waterpark-like features such as water slides or waterparks, lazy rivers, surf pools, wave pools or splash pads

General Requirements

All staffed water recreation facilities in Modified Phase 1 must adopt a written procedure for employee safety and customer interaction that is at least as strict as this procedure and complies with the safety and health requirements below, including recreation-specific guidance.

Safety and Health Requirements

All staffed water recreation facilities have a general obligation to keep a safe and healthy facility in accordance with state and federal law and safety and health rules for a variety of workplace hazards. In addition, they must comply with the following COVID-19 worksite-specific safety practices, as outlined in Governor Jay Inslee's "Safe Start" Proclamation 20-25.4, and in accordance with the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries [General Requirements and Prevention Ideas for Workplaces](#) and the [Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations](#).

Employers must specifically ensure operations follow the main L&I COVID-19 requirements to protect workers, including:

- Educate workers in the language they understand best about coronavirus and how to prevent transmission and the employer's COVID-19 policies.
- Maintain minimum six-foot separation between all employees (and clients/customers) in all interactions at all times. When strict physical distancing is not feasible for a specific task, other prevention measures are required, such as use of barriers, minimize staff or customers in narrow or enclosed areas, stagger breaks, and work shift starts.
- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, face shields and face masks as appropriate or required to employees for the activity being performed (when out of the water).
- Cloth facial coverings must be worn by every employee not working alone on the jobsite unless their exposure dictates a higher level of protection under Department of Labor & Industries safety and health rules and guidance with the following exceptions:

when working alone in an office, vehicle, or at a job site; if the individual is deaf or hard of hearing, or is communicating with someone who relies on language cues such as facial markers and expression and mouth movements as a part of communication; if the individual has a medical condition or disability that makes wearing a facial covering inappropriate; or when the job has no in-person interaction. Refer to [Coronavirus Facial Covering and Mask Requirements](#) for additional details. A cloth facial covering is described in the [Department of Health guidance](#).

- Ensure frequent and adequate hand washing with adequate maintenance of supplies. Use disposable gloves where safe and applicable to prevent transmission on tools or other items that are shared.
- Establish a housekeeping schedule that includes frequent cleaning and sanitizing with a particular emphasis on commonly touched surfaces.
- Screen employees for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 at start of shift. Make sure sick employees stay home or immediately go home if they feel or appear sick. Cordon off any areas where an employee with probable or confirmed COVID-19 illness worked, touched surfaces, etc. until the area and equipment is cleaned and sanitized. Follow the [cleaning guidelines set by the CDC](#) to deep clean and sanitize.
- Post a sign at the entrance to the business so that it is immediately noticeable to all customers entering the store that strongly encourages customers to wear cloth facial coverings. Employers are encouraged to require customers to wear cloth facial coverings, in order to protect their employees.

A site-specific COVID-19 Supervisor shall be designated by the employer at each job site to monitor the health of employees and enforce the COVID-19 job site safety plan.

A worker may refuse to perform unsafe work, including hazards created by COVID-19. It is unlawful for an employer to take adverse action against a worker who has engaged in safety-protected activities under the law if the individual's work refusal meets certain requirements. Information is available in these publications: [Safety and Health Discrimination in the Workplace brochure](#) and [Spanish Safety and Health Discrimination brochure](#).

Employees who choose to remove themselves from a worksite because they do not believe it is safe to work due to the risk of COVID-19 exposure may have access to certain leave or unemployment benefits. Employers must provide high-risk individuals covered by Proclamation 20-46.1 with their choice of access to available employer-granted accrued leave or unemployment benefits if an alternative work arrangement is not feasible.

Other employees may have access to expanded family and medical leave included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, unemployment benefits, or other paid time off depending on the circumstances. Additional information is available at [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak \(COVID-19\) Resources](#) and [Paid Leave under the WA Family Care Act and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#).

No business may operate until it can meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required to comply. Additional considerations may be adopted, as appropriate.

All issues regarding worker safety and health are subject to enforcement action under L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employers can request COVID-19 [prevention advice and help](#) from L&I's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH).

- Employee Workplace safety and health complaints may be submitted to the L&I DOSH Safety Call Center: (1-800-423-7233) or via e-mail to adag235@lni.wa.gov.
- General questions about how to comply with the agreement practices can be submitted to the state's [Business Response Center](#).
- All other violations related to Proclamation 20-25 can be submitted through [this website](#).

Staffed Water Recreation Facilities (Public and Private)

RESTART COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

According to the [CDC](#), COVID-19 transmission is not likely through contact with properly disinfected water. All staffed water recreation facilities should follow DOH's [guidance document](#), which focuses on reducing transmission through air and frequently touched surfaces.

In Modified Phase 1, authorized operations include appointment-only lap swimming, one-on-one lessons, and small group classes (groups of 5 or less) at general use swimming pools only (e.g., athletic club pools and municipal pools) as defined in [WAC 246-260-010\(34\)](#) and [WAC 246-260-010\(74\)](#). General use spas, general use wading pools, general use spray pools, limited use pools as defined in [WAC 246-260](#), and any recreational water contact facility regulated under [WAC 246-262](#) are not included in this guidance.

1. Please refer to the [memo](#) on customer logs.
2. Six-foot physical distancing must be maintained for employees and clients through all phases. This applies to all parts of the facility (in the water, decks, bathrooms, locker rooms, and other communal areas). Activities that make six-foot physical distancing difficult (e.g., instructing beginner swimmers) are not authorized.
3. The facility must limit capacity to 25 percent of the normal building occupancy or less for the total number of people (staff and patrons) allowed within the facility. Refer to the local building or fire department to inquire the normal building capacity.
4. The maximum number of people allowed in the pool (in the water) shall be determined by: Square footage of the pool water surface area divided by 72. If this number results in a situation which makes physical distancing difficult, it must be adjusted downwards until physical distancing can be practiced at all times.
5. For lap swimming, only one person is allowed in each lane. Each lane must be at least six feet wide.
6. For small group swim lessons, up to 5 students in each group are allowed for independent swimmers (students are in the water and the instructor is on the deck), and up to 4 students in each group are allowed for swimmers who need close supervision by the instructor (the instructor is in the water with the students).
7. An instructor is allowed to instruct only one group of students at a time unless the facility is properly lifeguarded following the facility's lifeguarding plans.
8. Remove or rearrange lounge chairs and tables as necessary to maintain physical distancing.
9. Other prevention measures such as barriers to block sneezes and coughs are required where physical distancing is not possible for staff. For example, this may be appropriate for front desk personnel.
10. Regularly sanitize counter tops, doorknobs, other common surfaces, cash registers, kiosks, diaper changing stations, drinking fountains, locker handles, handrails, pool noodles, and kickboards and other frequently touched surfaces including employee used equipment.
11. Install signage to discourage group congregation, or to limit numbers of people in a certain area. Customers will be reminded to be especially mindful of social distancing in the parking lot. Warn frequent offenders.

12. Ensure restrooms and changing rooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately sanitized throughout the day.
13. Face coverings such as masks and cloth coverings to cover the nose and the mouth are highly recommended for customers while not in the water or shower.
 14. Ask visitors to leave the facility immediately after they are done to eliminate gatherings on the property or in the parking lot.
 15. Increase the number of hand sanitizing stations throughout the space
16. Food and beverage services must conform to curbside, delivery, and dine-in restaurant requirements. Vending machines may be used as long as sanitation wipes are provided for customer use, an appropriately sized receptacle for used wipes is in the immediate vicinity, and that receptacle is emptied regularly preventing overflow especially in outdoor areas. Food and beverage service and consumption area must be separate from the pool enclosure (WAC 246-260-131(3)(a)).
17. Keep up to date on all changes issued by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Labor & Industries, and the Department of Health.

Prior to reopening, all water recreation facilities are required to develop for each location a comprehensive COVID-19 exposure control, mitigation and recovery plan. The plan must include policies regarding the following control measures: PPE utilization; on-location physical distancing; hygiene; sanitation; symptom monitoring; incident reporting; location disinfection procedures; COVID-19 safety training; exposure response procedures and a post-exposure incident project-wide recovery plan. A copy of the plan must be available at the location and available for inspection by state and local authorities. Failure to meet posting requirements will result in sanctions, including the location being shut down.
18. If an organization is renting a space within a water recreation facility to provide swim lessons, the organization must obtain an agreement from the owner of the facility to use the facility, and the facility owner must also agree to abide by all the requirements provided in this document as applicable.
19. If the facility owner is required to provide lifeguards according to WAC 246-260-131(6)(b), the facility must have comprehensive lifeguarding plans in place in writing addressing not only COVID-19 related safety issues but also other issues related to day-to-day lifeguarding requirements. [Washington Recreation & Park Association](#) has a [lifeguard plan](#) that has been reviewed by DOH and L&I to ensure it is in compliance. L&I 's safety and health consultants are available to review safety requirements and provide professional guidance related to the plan. You can request a consultation [here](#).
20. All indoor water recreation facilities should stay updated on advice from national sports associations and the CDC as provided below. If there is any conflict between this document and any document provided below, the requirement in this document prevails.

[USA Swimming](#)

[Divers Alert Network](#)

[CDC](#)

COVID-19 Instructor Responsibility

1. Instructors conducting any type of lessons or classes, and the owners of the facilities where the lessons are held as applicable, will be responsible for ensuring that the COVID-19 Safety Plan is being adhered to.

COVID-19 Safety Training

2. A safety briefing must be conducted at the beginning of each session to re-emphasize the protective measures for everyone to include maintaining social distancing, sanitation protocols, and pre-session screening. Alternatively, a safety video can be shared and emailed to the client prior to the scheduled appointment.
3. Each client will sign a waiver of consent and commitment to the facility's reopening policies prior to their scheduled appointment times. Clients will be informed to wear training attire to the facility and to bring their own towel if the facility does not provide professionally laundered towel service.

Pre-Session Screening

4. Place signage at facility entrances to instruct customers that they cannot enter if they:
 - Have been diagnosed with COVID-19 (have not recovered or are still within the required 14-day quarantine);
 - Have had a fever within the past 3 days (72 hours) without the use of fever-reducing medications;
 - Have had respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath) within the past 3 days (72 hours);
 - Started having symptoms within the past 10 days; and
 - Have Had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19 (within the last 14days).
5. A facility may conduct a temperature screening and/or questionnaire of customers at the facility entrance.
6. For facilities that take reservations: Utilize on-line or phone reservation systems to pre-pay and limit interactions.

Safety and social distancing practices

7. Social distancing guidelines of at least six feet of separation must be maintained by every person in the facility at all times to the greatest extent possible. Each facility will have a social distancing plan that explains where clients can be at a given time in lobby or waiting areas, private offices, and the swimming area. Place signage at entrances and throughout the facility to instruct clients of the enhanced social distancing requirements.
8. People from the same household can be together but 6 feet of physical distance should be maintained for people from different households.
9. Authorized access to the facility should primarily be through the front door. Other access points should be kept closed.
10. Tissues and trashcans must be made available throughout the facility.
11. Equipment will be adjusted or access restricted in order to maintain proper social distancing standards. Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces, such as equipment, kickboards, handrails, doorknobs, and restrooms. Sanitation workers disinfecting these areas must be provided appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for these work tasks and trained on work expectations. If these areas cannot be cleaned and disinfected frequently, these locations shall be shut down until such measures can be achieved and maintained.
12. Number of people in the facility, to include staff, instructors, and clients, will be limited to 25 percent of the facility's building occupancy, as determined by the fire code. If the occupancy is not known, contact the local building or fire department.

13. Congregations of no more than five people will be allowed in common areas such as employee break rooms and lobbies, and only if social distancing may be maintained.
14. Lessons, classes and lap swimming must be staggered to maintain social distancing and limited capacity in a facility

Sanitation Protocols

15. Ensure restrooms are frequently cleaned and appropriately disinfected throughout the day.
16. Clients shall be required to bring their own water bottles. Water fountain use shall be restricted to water bottle filling stations only. Congregating at water bottle filling stations shall be limited.
17. Soap and running water shall be abundantly provided for frequent handwashing.
18. Hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol must be available and distributed throughout the facility.
19. All clients will wash their hands or use facility provided hand sanitizer upon entrance to the facility and prior to entering the changing room or pool area. This will be confirmed by the instructor or staff.
20. Staff must wash their hands and use hand sanitizer frequently.
21. For guidance on choosing safer disinfectants: [Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Strategies to Reduce and Prevent COVID-19 Transmission, UWDEOHS](#)

Limited Use of Facility and Business Adaptations

22. No large group fitness classes (more than 5) will be permitted during Modified Phase 1 .
23. No in-facility childcare services will be permitted during Modified Phase 1.
24. Facility owner shall have plans for the use of locker rooms, shower rooms, restrooms, other personal hygiene facilities and communal areas to protect the staff and patrons from COVID-19 according to [DOH guidance](#).
25. If towels are provided for patrons, they shall be washed and sanitized professionally after each use, and staff shall be properly trained on how to handle soiled towels safely.
26. The following activities will not be authorized during Modified Phase 1: saunas, steam rooms, and tanning beds.

Employee/Trainer Protection

27. Screen all employees and trainers reporting to work for COVID-19 symptoms with the following questions:
 - Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
 - Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat?
 - Have you had a fever in the last 72 hours?
 - Have you had a loss of taste or smell?
 - Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 2 weeks?
28. Ask employees and instructors to take their temperature at home prior to arriving at the business, or take their temperature when they arrive. Thermometers used at the facility shall be 'no touch' or 'no contact' to the greatest extent possible. If a 'no touch' or 'no contact' thermometer is not available, the thermometer must be properly sanitized and disinfected between each use. Any employee or instructor with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher is considered to have a fever and must be sent home.

Ventilation

29. Keep doors and windows open where possible and utilize fans to improve ventilation only if it is a lifeguarded facility and an on-duty lifeguard is present. Adjust mechanical ventilation systems to bring in as much outside air as possible. Increase filters to MERV 13 if the HVAC can accommodate.

All water recreation facilities must meet and maintain all the requirements in this document, including providing materials, schedules and equipment required, and all requirements in chapter 246-260 WAC, whichever is more strict, to comply.

Business Outreach Initiative Resources List

Purpose: This list is to provide access to education and guidance on how to operate a business safely and effectively within the scope of regulations set by the current phase Yakima County is in. Furthermore, gives access to resources to help businesses best prepare for expansion of operations when moving to the next phase.

Local Resources:

Yakima Health District
509-575-4040

Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
509-248-2021 ext 102

verlynn@yakima.org

Yakima Downtown Association

509-571-1328

director@downtownyakima.com

Selah Downtown Association

509-490-1527

selahdowntownassociation@gmail.com

Online Resources:

Governor's Office Website (Specific guidance for business type for each phase)

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/issues/issues/covid-19-resources/covid-19-reopening-guidance-businesses-and-workers>

Washington State Department of Health

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/ResourcesandRecommendations>

Washington Department of Labor & Industries

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/agency/outreach/novel-coronavirus-outbreak-covid-19-resources>