

Guidelines for Safer Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic

POOLS AND SPRAYGROUNDS

Sector: Pools and Spraygrounds

The following is intended as a plain language summary of rules for reopening during the COVID-19 Emergency and does not replace the need to follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Protective Measures

- **Masks**

- Provide masks for employees and require them to mask when on site except only:
 - As necessary for the employee to eat or drink during break times. The employee should be seated at least 6 feet from others when taking off mask.
- Require attendees to mask while on site. Have employees distribute masks to visitors if practical.
 - Masks should not be used while in water (pools, spray grounds). Remove before entering water and then dry face and replace mask immediately after exiting water.

- **Isolate**

- Screen every employee for symptoms before every shift and prevent them from remaining on site if they have cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, muscle pain, or new loss of taste or smell.
- It is not necessary to conduct onsite temperature measurement for staff or attendees. If you measure temperatures, use a no-touch thermometer, and do not allow anyone with a temperature of 100.4° or higher to remain onsite.
- Have sick leave policies in place so that employees excluded from the workplace do not lose earnings.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 infection or has a positive test, please contact the Montgomery County Office of Public Health at 610-278-5117.

- **Distance**

- Encourage users to stay at least 6 feet away from other people.
- Pools and spraygrounds are to take appropriate measures to ensure adequate physical distancing measures are being met (e.g. signage, properly space tables/chairs/lounge chairs, periodic announcements, and employee assistance).

- **Reduce crowds**

- Identify areas where the most crowding is anticipated and limit crowds by opening additional spaces and posting signage notifying users of alternate options.
- Spray grounds and pools that can restrict usage to 50 people including staff and enforce physical distancing through use of staff monitors can open in the Green Phase. If social distancing cannot be practiced with 50 patrons, the facility must limit the number of patrons to suit its space.

- **Handwashing**

- Place signage about handwashing outside communal bathrooms.
- Give staff hourly handwashing breaks.
- Facilities must provide hot and cold running water, soap, and disposable towels at all hand sinks and toilet rooms.

- **Clean**

- Wipe down high-touch surfaces with disinfectant at least every 4 hours. See [CDC guidance](#) for details.
- Free chlorine levels in all pools and hot tubs (spas) must be between 1.0ppm and 5.0ppm (bromine levels must be between 2.0ppm and 10.0ppm).

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- **Communicate**

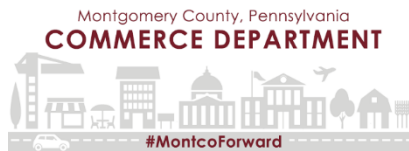
- Educate staff about strategies to prevent spread of COVID-19.
- Post prominent signs at entrances:
 - Asking people who are sick or who have had contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days not to enter.
 - Encouraging people to cover coughs or sneezes.
 - Mandating physical distancing of at least 6 feet.
 - Mandating that all staff and attendees to wear masks when not able to distance, except while in water.

See also:

[PA Summer Recreation, Parks, and Pools](#)

[CDC Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds during COVID-19](#)

*This Safety Checklist was originally developed by the City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health
and the Department of Commerce and adapted by the County of Montgomery.*



[Montgomery County Data Hub](#)

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610-631-3000

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