Universal Recommended Best Practices

Masking

- If you are not fully vaccinated* against COVID-19, wearing a mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin will help protect yourself and others. You should wear a mask when:
  - In any indoor location that is not a residence.
  - Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet or more between people who live in different homes/households.
  - Riding, driving, or operating public transportation, or a taxi, car service, or ride sharing vehicle.
    (This does not apply to members of a household sharing a private or rental vehicle.)
  - Regardless of vaccination status, you may be asked to wear a mask in a health care setting.
  - If you are fully vaccinated,* you may be asked to wear a mask in certain situations, such as when traveling on public transportation or if a business chooses to require masks.
- A mask should never be worn by/placed on anyone who:
  - Is younger than 2.
  - Cannot remove it without assistance.
  - Risks choking if wearing a mask.
  - Is sleeping/napping.
  - Is living with a medical condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask. This includes respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disabilities.
  - Is swimming. (Wet masks can cause difficulty breathing.)
  - Risks workplace health, safety, or job duty if wearing a mask.

Congregating, Social Distancing, and Sanitizing

- If you are not fully vaccinated:*
  - Maintain at least 6 feet of distancing from others when possible.
  - Avoid gathering in groups with other unvaccinated individuals when possible.
  - If you gather with other unvaccinated individuals, maintain groups of no more than 10 people, separated from other groups by at least 6 feet.
- For everyone:
  - Regularly clean high-touch surfaces.
  - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer frequently.
  - Watch out for any symptoms of COVID-19. If you have fever, cough, or other signs of COVID-19, stay home and away from others.

Persons with COVID-19 or Exposure to Someone with COVID-19

- Anyone with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 should stay away from others and seek medical care if necessary.
- If possible, individuals with symptoms should get tested for COVID-19.
- If you have or likely have COVID-19, isolate from others for at least 10 days.
- Your local health district may contact you to obtain more information and to contact individuals who may be considered close contacts.
- If you are exposed to COVID-19 and not fully vaccinated,* quarantine as recommended by the local health district. Optimal quarantine is 14 days but, if recommended by the local health district, may be reduced to seven days if a viral test collected on or after day five has come back negative.
- If you are fully vaccinated,* quarantine or testing after exposure is generally not necessary unless symptoms develop.
  - There are some exceptions for specific settings. Always follow the direction of the local health district.
Other recommended best practices for local and public pools and aquatic centers

**General Operations:**

- Make hand sanitizer and cleaning products readily available throughout the site for employees and customers.
- Where applicable, consider designating with signage, tape, or other means 6-foot spacing for swimmers in line to allow distancing.
- Where possible, consider providing one-way traffic in areas where doing so will allow social distancing.
- Consider consulting with the company or engineer that designed your pool or aquatic venue to decide which disinfectants, approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are best for your site.
- Consider increasing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers. Consider maximizing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers. Consider maximizing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers. Consider maximizing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers. Consider maximizing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers. Consider maximizing the frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning for indoor pools and aquatic centers.

**Communication:**

- Consider developing regular communication with customers through a variety of channels (text, emails, social posts, flyers, etc.) to clearly communicate the steps your beach, pool, or aquatic center is taking to protect users and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Consider posting clearly visible signage at entrances and elsewhere with the recommendation that anyone who is not fully vaccinated* should wear a mask when not actively exercising and practice social distancing. Signage is available for download on the Posters and Signs page at coronavirus.ohio.gov. If printing assistance is required, contact the Ohio Department of Health Call Center at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

**Public restrooms and shower facilities:**

- Ensure there are functional toilets and restroom facilities and that adequate supplies for handwashing, including soap and materials for drying hands, are fully stocked every time the bathroom is cleaned.
- If towels are provided, use appropriate temperatures when washing and drying towels to ensure sanitation (hot water for washing; ensure they are completely dried). Consider asking employees who are not fully vaccinated* and handling towels to wear gloves and face coverings.
- Consider limiting the number of users at any one time in restroom and shower facilities, based on facility size and to allow for social distancing.
- Review Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for established restroom cleaning schedules.
- Consider posting a cleaning schedule at each location.
- Consider installing touch-free entry points at restrooms and other facilities.
- Consider installing touchless sensors on faucets, paper towel, and soap dispensers wherever possible.
- Consider installing and stocking toilet seat cover dispensers.

**Closures, Modifications, and Limitations**

- Discourage the sharing of objects such as goggles, nose clips, and snorkels. If equipment is shared, clean and disinfect equipment after each use.
- Consider implement a reservation system or a time limit for visitors and swimmers.
- Consider providing adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kick boards and pool noodles, to minimize sharing to the extent possible.
- Consider limiting use of equipment by one group of users at a time and cleaning and disinfecting between uses.

**Employees and Contractors**

- When possible, implement flexibility with staff attendance and sick-leave policies. Any staff who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home.
- Consider implementing staggered employee entry, working in assigned teams, varied arrival and departure, and staggered breaks to avoid interaction or grouping among staff.
- Consider regularly providing staff with up-to-date information about COVID-19 and related business procedures and policies.
- Consider communicating the importance of practicing preventive actions.

**Pool Users**

- Consider bringing trash bags, food, and supplies and planning to carry in and carry out trash and other items.

**NOTE:** Employers, businesses, organizations, and event organizers may choose to require masking, social distancing, and/or other COVID-19 mitigation measures.

*You are fully vaccinated if at least two weeks have passed since you received the second shot of a two-dose vaccine (Moderna, Pfizer) or since you received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).*