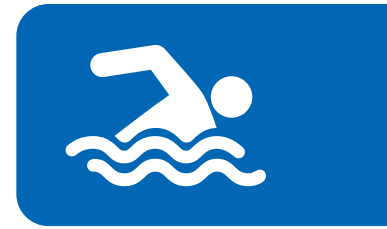


# Guidelines for Recreational Water Facilities



## Operator Information: Stage 3

July 31, 2020

The Provincial Government has announced that the Region of Peel is included in Reopening our Province – Stage 3. This guidance document provides you with the information you need to reopen your aquatic facility. This document is also not intended to supersede the regulations in place by the Government of Ontario.

In Stage 3, whirlpools and water slides can reopen with public health restrictions.

Wave pools and waterparks, including float parks, remain closed.

This document has been developed to support operators of recreational water facilities (Classes A, B and C) in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, patrons and the general public).

Operators of recreational water facilities must continue to comply with the requirements in the Public Pools Regulation, R.R.O. 565/90. As well, the Occupational Health and Safety Act states that all employers must take every reasonable precaution to protect the health and safety of workers which includes protecting workers from hazards posed by infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

Notification must be received at least 14 days prior to the intended date of opening. Operators are required to contact Peel Public Health to arrange for an inspection with a Public Health Inspector prior to re-opening an aquatic facility. Complete the Opening Notification Form (online or by fax: Opening Notification Form). More details can be found on our website.

NOTE: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, requests may take longer to process. We ask for your patience while we process your request. Your designated operator must also be present during the pre-opening inspection to demonstrate various operating components of your facility.

The first step to control risks in a workplace is to identify them. For COVID-19, the risks are related to how the virus spreads.

We're making progress in the battle to recover from COVID-19, but we continue to see new cases in Peel. As our communities reopen, our actions will determine how fast and how well Peel recovers. Commit to the [Core Four](#) steps to help us overcome COVID-19.

COVID-19 can be spread at the workplace in two main ways:

- person to person, especially by people who are in close contact
- by contaminated surfaces or objects and then people touch their face with contaminated hands

It is possible for COVID-19 to be spread by people who do not appear to have any symptoms. Act as if everyone is infected when setting up public health control measures at your premises.

COVID-19 is primarily transmitted through respiratory droplets that can travel up to two meters. There is currently no evidence that the virus is transmitted through water but may occur through contact with a contaminated surface and/or being less than two meters from a person who is carrying the virus.

Please view guidelines developed by the Province for common health and safety measures for COVID-19 [sector-specific guidelines](#).

The Ontario government has provided [A Framework for Reopening our Province: Stage 3](#). Peel Public Health is committed to supporting local recreational water operators to safely reopen to align with this framework.

Create a plan for the re-opening of your facility. Ontario has developed a tool (including a Word template) for your [COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan](#).

This document and the guidance within it, is subject to change and will be updated as needed. Current information related to COVID-19 can be found at [peelregion.ca/coronavirus/](https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/)

# Recreational Water Facility Summary

**To further reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19, we are recommending the following:**

## **Before Re-opening your facility**

- Many buildings that have been unoccupied for some time have had reduced or no water flow through the plumbing system during the pandemic, leading to the stagnation of water in the pipes. Prior to re-opening, each site needs to ensure that fresh water replaces the stagnant water in the water lines.
- Standing water can cause conditions that increase the risk of the growth and spread of Legionella and other biofilm-associated bacteria. Stagnant water can also impact disinfectant levels.
- Access guidance from Public Works on safely reopening a facility's drinking water and wastewater systems, and other related maintenance.  
[peelregion.ca/water/building-reopening/](https://peelregion.ca/water/building-reopening/)

## **Points of Entry/Access**

- At the entrance, signs should be posted to inform all patrons that:
- They must not enter if they are a suspected or confirmed to be a COVID-19 case or if they have had any contact with a person with COVID-19.
  - They should not enter if they have any of the known COVID-19 symptoms such as coughing, shortness of breath or fever.
  - Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, with a history of travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days must remain at home.
  - In addition, vulnerable populations or those with underlying medical conditions should be encouraged not to attend.
  - Face coverings are required in indoor public spaces: in change rooms and in hallways leading to the pool/whirlpool but not while in the water. Children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove a mask without help are exempt.
  - Patrons must maintain a physical distance of 2 metres from other patrons and staff (unless they are from the same social circle). A social circle is not more than 10 people including your own household. These are people with whom you can have close contact.
  - Patrons must be aware of the reduced number of maximum bathers.
  - COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations.

### **Employees/Patrons**

- Screening should be done to ensure employees and patrons do not have COVID-19 symptoms by utilizing the screening tool below.
- Please see the Region of Peel Public Health's Screening Tool:  
[peelregion.ca/coronavirus/business/#workplace](https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus/business/#workplace).

### **Facility**

- Post signage which illustrates the layout plan of your facility including specific COVID-19 measures such as floor pattern around the pool. This will help patrons to familiarize themselves with it prior to entry. Place stickers or signage on the wall and/or floor to establish two metre distancing.
- One-way traffic measures for showers, change rooms and washrooms.
- To help maintain capacity, operators should encourage patrons to book or sign up ahead of time.

<b>Points of Entry/Access</b>	<b>Facility (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities should also consider recording each patron’s name and contact information for the purpose of assisting Public Health when the need to follow-up on staff and patrons in regards to COVID-19 may arise.</li> <li>• Consider setting a time limit on facility use for each patron.</li> <li>• Physical barriers are recommended to separate the front desk attendant and the patrons. Consider a contact-free check-in for staff and patrons or provide reception counters with protection made of safety glass.</li> <li>• Limit physical contact by using online payment and registration. If cash is accepted, specific procedures to prevent contamination need to be established (e.g., employee should wear gloves and wash hands before and after handling money).</li> <li>• If wrist-bands are required, the operator should use self-applied bracelets and provide waste containers at the facility exit point for their disposal.</li> <li>• Encourage handwashing among staff and patrons (<a href="#">handwashing poster</a>).</li> <li>• Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer at entry and exit points, and encourage patrons to also bring their own.</li> <li>• Width of swim lanes should be considered for physical distancing. Consider alternate lanes or swimmers use the middle of lane returning by the adjacent lane.</li> </ul>
<b>Bather Load</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adjustments to bather loads will be necessary to ensure bathers have adequate physical distancing.</li> <li>• To achieve physical distancing measures in whirlpools, limit numbers so that each social circle grouping is 2 metres from other groups of people.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the Core Four steps with all staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Stay apart: Maintain 2 metres distance from everyone outside of your social circle</li> <li>2. Lather up: Wash your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer</li> <li>3. Mask up: Wear a non-medical mask where maintaining physical distancing is difficult and where masks are mandatory</li> <li>4. Get tested: If you think you might have COVID-19 or have been exposed to it.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Staff should stay home when they are sick.</li> <li>• Post COVID-19 signage in staff rooms.</li> <li>• It is strongly recommended that at least one individual on deck be assigned as a “COVID-19 responsible person”.</li> <li>• The primary function of this role would be to watch for adherence to physical distancing guidance and are knowledgeable with how COVID-19 is transmitted and trained in steps to take with bather assessments. The COVID-19 responsible person cannot be an on-duty lifeguard.</li> <li>• Whenever possible, lifeguard towers should be utilized for the safety supervision of recreational swimming. They offer a good view of the swimming pool and ensure physical distancing.</li> <li>• Staff should be encouraged to eat lunch individually and not in groups, washing hands before and after using communal facilities and disinfect tables after use.</li> <li>• Management should consider staggering staff shifts and programs to allow for physical distancing measures or dividing staff into two groups that have no contact with each other.</li> <li>• Regardless of the daily requirement of physical distancing, these two groups of staff could be strictly separated so that in the event that one group has to self-isolate, restricted operation would then be possible with the other group.</li> </ul>

<b>Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit the use of shared equipment wherever possible (e.g., removal of pool noodles).</li> <li>• Clean and disinfect shared equipment (e.g., flutter boards, lifejackets, clip boards) and launder any rental towels between each use.</li> <li>• Patrons should not share uncleaned towels, goggles or any other equipment other than with family members.</li> <li>• Snorkels should be prohibited, they encourage spitting of the mouth's contents.</li> <li>• Access to the equipment room should be restricted at this time.</li> <li>• Bathers can also be encouraged to provide their own equipment for their own use.</li> </ul>
<b>Seating areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The seating area should be closed if it is too small for physical distancing.</li> <li>• Seating should be reduced to provide for 2 metre physical distancing measures.</li> <li>• Post seating capacity in this vicinity to ensure it is being followed.</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning and disinfecting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition to routine cleaning, increase the frequency of sanitizing frequently touched surfaces (such as ladders, doorknobs, handrails, light switches, tables, desk fixtures, touch pads).</li> <li>• Rescue equipment (tubes, cans, poles, ring buoys) should be cleaned and disinfected after each use.</li> <li>• Chlorinated pool water is an effective disinfectant and the risk of transmission from the contact with properly treated pool water is considered minimal. Salt water pools are also chlorinated.</li> <li>• Ensure there are numerous handwashing stations available for patrons to use and are fully supplied.</li> </ul>
<b>Masks and protective equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Face coverings/masks are required in indoor public spaces: in change rooms and in hallways leading to the pool/whirlpool.</li> <li>• Children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove a mask without help are exempt.</li> <li>• Masks should not be worn in the water by bathers and staff as they present a safety risk.</li> <li>• Staff should wear PPE appropriate for the work being performed (i.e., for First Aid or resuscitation) and disposed of properly.</li> <li>• Please refer to specific guidance from <a href="#">Peel Public Health</a>.</li> <li>• Visit the website of your local municipality: <a href="#">Brampton</a>, <a href="#">Caledon</a>, and <a href="#">Mississauga</a> for information about the mandatory mask bylaw.</li> </ul>
<b>Locker rooms/ change rooms/ washrooms</b>	<p>Change rooms and showers will be available to the public if operators can adequately clean and disinfect the facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove common-use items from locker rooms. Ensure physical distancing can be maintained in the locker rooms or discontinue the use of them.</li> <li>• Post occupancy limits for common areas such as change rooms, locker rooms and washrooms or stagger change room access.</li> <li>• Post signage in strategic locations to reinforce the two metre physical distancing requirement.</li> <li>• Bathers should be encouraged to come to the facility in their swimming attire.</li> </ul>

<b>Locker rooms/ change rooms/ rooms/ washrooms</b>	<b>Shower Areas</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operators can install mobile splash protection walls or discontinue use of every other shower where showers are set up inside the physical distancing limit.</li> <li>• In shower areas where there are individual shower stalls, every other shower can be taken out of operation to ensure proper physical distancing.</li> <li>• Touchless soap dispensers should be provided to bathers so that they can take a cleansing shower.</li> </ul>
<b>Rapid response and first aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities should have a plan in place to manage symptomatic patrons and staff during COVID-19.</li> <li>• Refer to the specific guidance <a href="#">Lifesaving Society Reopening Pools and Waterfronts</a> on mitigating the risk of COVID-19 transmission during First Aid.</li> </ul>
<b>Swimming Lessons and Aquatic Fitness Classes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aquatic activities such as fitness classes and swim lessons must be in line with physical distancing measures. For example, only other household members can assist swimmers with physical contact.</li> <li>• The total number of people permitted in classes at any one time is limited to the number of people who can maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres and cannot exceed the indoor gathering of 50 people or the outdoor limit of 100.</li> <li>• Instructors and other staff are not included in the final count.</li> </ul>
<b>Whirlpools/ Spas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now permitted to open.</li> </ul>
<b>Splash Pads and Wading Pools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permitted to reopen in the province's <a href="#">Framework for Reopening our Province: Stage 2</a>.</li> </ul>

# Resources

Notification must be received at least 14 days prior to the intended date of opening. The [Opening Notification Form](#) can be completed [online](#) or sent by:

Fax: 905-565-9602;

Email: [peelhealth@peelregion.ca](mailto:peelhealth@peelregion.ca)

Mail: Peel Public Health, Health Protection,  
P.O. Box 669 RPO StreetsvilleMississauga, ON L5M 2C2

Visit our [website](#) for up to date COVID-19 information.

We've created COVID-19 related documents, posters and other resources that you can share with your employees or staff. [Access our resources](#).

We also have [translated resources](#) in different languages.

If you have any additional questions about these recommendations and what is required of you, please contact the Region of Peel – Public Health at: 905-799-7700 or by email at: [peelhealth@peelregion.ca](mailto:peelhealth@peelregion.ca)

For more information, please refer to the following resources:

- [Ontario Ministry of Health – Cleaning and Disinfection for Public Settings](#)
- [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Guidance: Essential Workplaces](#)
- [Province of Ontario Guidance to Prevent COVID-19 in the Workplace](#)
- [A Framework for Reopening our Province: Stage 3](#)

Visit the website of your local municipality: [Brampton](#), [Caledon](#), and [Mississauga](#) for information about the mandatory mask bylaw.

The information in this document is current as of July 31, 2020

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For more information visit [peelregion.ca/coronavirus](https://peelregion.ca/coronavirus)

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