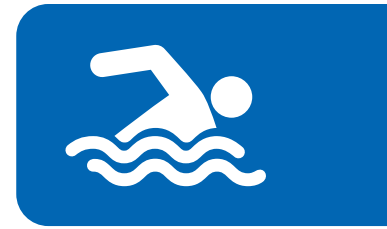


COVID-19

Reopening recreational water facilities in Peel Region



Operator Information: Stage 3

July 31, 2020

In order to open a recreational water facility and to ensure all requirements of the Ontario Regulation 565 – Public Pools are being met, please complete the Opening Notification Form. The form can be completed online or sent by:

Fax: 905-565-9602;

Email: peelhealth@peelregion.ca; OR

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

Notification must be received at least 14 days prior to the intended date of opening in accordance with R.R.O. 1990, Regulation 565 – Public Pools.

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.

In the interim, you can prepare for the reopening of your facility by developing protocols, procedures and physical distancing requirements to ensure the health and safety of employees and patrons at your facility. 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.

The Ministry of Health has released their Framework for Reopening our Province: Stage 3, where you will find information regarding recreational water facilities:

- All indoor and outdoor swimming pools and outdoor splash pads and wading pools may open to the public including access to high-contact aquatic features such as slides and climbing structures.
- Whirlpools/spas are permitted to reopen.

- These public pools include those in hotels, motels, condominiums, resorts and other private facilities.
- Saunas, waterparks, and wave pools, will not be permitted to reopen in Stage 3.

Please see the attached Operator Checklist.

If you require further information on the operation or opening of your recreational water facility, please contact Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700, peelhealth@peelregion.ca or check our website at: peelregion.ca/health/enviroNew/water/operators.htm

Recreational Water Operator Checklist During Stage 3 of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Create a plan for the re-opening of your aquatic facility.
Ontario has developed a tool (including a Word template) for your [COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan](#).
- Ensure Peel Public Health has been notified.
- Many buildings that have been unoccupied for some time have had reduced or no water flow through the plumbing system, leading to the stagnation of water in the pipes. Prior to re-opening, each site needs to ensure fresh water replaces the stagnant water in the water lines. Standing water has caused increased risk for growth and spread of Legionella and other biofilm-associated bacteria as well as it can impact disinfectant levels.

Access guidance from Public Works on safely reopening a facility's drinking water, wastewater systems, and other related maintenance. peelregion.ca/water/building-reopening/
- Ensure that every employee who is suspected or confirmed to have contracted COVID-19 stays home and seeks medical attention. More information can be provided by calling 905-799-7700.
- Ensure strategies are in place for safe employee access to the facility.
- Ensure employees are provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the work being performed and that this equipment is properly disposed of. If applicable, PPE must be cleaned and disinfected between users. Ensure that sharing of equipment and supplies between employees is avoided; if unavoidable, disinfect shared equipment before re-use.
- Post [signs](#) at the facility entrance to inform all bathers/patrons that:
 - a. Patrons may not enter the facility if they suspect that they have COVID-19 symptoms.
 - b. If admitted, patrons are required to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from others this includes both bathers and employees with the exception of household members.
 - c. All patrons must maintain proper hygiene when in the facility.
 - d. Include patrons to follow the revised maximum bather load.
- Staffing numbers should be considered during this time. Staff should be trained and knowledgeable of the steps needed for COVID-19 safety measures.
- Provide separate entrances and exits.
- 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.
- It is strongly recommended that at least one individual on deck be designated as a "COVID-19 responsible person". The primary function of this role would be to watch for adherence to physical distancing guidance. The COVID-19 responsible person cannot be an on-duty lifeguard.

- Face coverings/masks are required in indoor public spaces: in change rooms and in hallways leading to the pool/whirlpool.
 - Children under the age of 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious or otherwise unable to remove a mask without help are exempt.
 - Masks should not be worn in the water by bathers and staff as they present a safety risk.
 - Please refer to specific guidance from Peel Public Health.
 - Visit the website of your local municipality: Brampton, Caledon, and Mississauga for information about the mandatory mask bylaw.
- Ensure that a physical barrier is provided between the cashier and patrons so that no physical contact is made.
- Install physical markers on the floors or walls (such as cones, lines, stickers, wooden structures, etc.) to indicate the appropriate 2 metre spacing distance for patrons waiting in line.
- Take measures to avoid crowds gathering or long waiting lines such as a reservation system giving patrons a time slot for using the aquatic facility.
- Ensure that the occupancy rate in changerooms is reduced to allow for physical distancing. This would also include washrooms, offices, seating area and lunchrooms.
- Ensure deliveries are dropped off at a designated delivery location. Limit the exchange of paperwork by using electronic signatures on contracts or delivery forms.
- If a bathroom is available on the pool deck, encourage patrons to use this toilet to avoid them from entering other areas of the facility.
- Ensure that surfaces, sinks and toilets are cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- In addition to routine cleaning performed as required, increase the frequency of sanitation of commonly touched surfaces such as ladders, doorknobs, handrails, light switches, countertops, tables, deck fixtures and touch pads.
- Post signs to inform bathers on how to properly wash their hands.
- Ensure all handwashing stations are equipped with liquid soap and paper towels. If handwashing stations cannot be provided, have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available instead.

if you have additional questions, please:

call: Region of Peel – Public Health at 905-799-7700, or

email us: peelhealth@peelregion.ca, or

check our website: peelregion.ca/health/environNew/water/operators.htm

CDS-0713 20/07

For more information visit peelregion.ca/coronavirus

 @regionofpeel

 @peelregion.ca

 @regionofpeel

 **Region
of Peel**
working with you