



Ector County, Texas

Ector County Health Department: SEMI-PUBLIC POOLS IN ECTOR COUNTY

The Ector County Health Department had made the decision to close all pools including apartments, motels and hotels for the 2020 season and released the notification to the public on May 7, 2020 which was before the governor had announced that pools could open in some areas. The decision has been left up to local officials and the Health Department has decided the pools are able to operate based on the facilities ability to implement the following requirements to ensure the safety of swimmers and visitors.

Promoting Behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19

- Hand Hygiene, Respiratory Etiquette and Adequate Supplies
 - Encouraging all staff, patrons, and swimmers to wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes.
 - The facility must provide or require the visitor to have hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol with them while in the pool area. Once the individual exits the water they are required to sanitize their hands before touching any objects.
- Modified Layout
 - Changing deck layouts to ensure that in the standing and seating areas, individuals can remain at least 6 feet apart from those they don't live with (provide signage stating the distance requirement).
- Signs and Messages posted in Pool area
 - Educating staff, patrons, and swimmers about when to stay home (for example, if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days).
 - Signage on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly hand washing, promotes everyday protective measures, and proper use of cloth face coverings. Posted in highly visible locations (example of signage can be found on the CDC website).

Maintaining Health Environments

- Cleaning and Disinfection
 - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used. For example:
 - Handrails, slides, and structures for climbing or playing
 - Lounge chairs, tabletops, pool noodles, and kickboards
 - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, and showers
- Water Systems
 - Drinking fountains must not be in use for the 2020 season



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Shared Objects

- Discourage people from sharing items that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect (goggles, nose clips, snorkels, pool noodles, kick boards etc.).

Gatherings

- Avoid group events, gatherings, or meetings both in and out of the water if social distancing of at least 6 feet between people who don't live together cannot be maintained.
 - Exceptions would be anyone rescuing a distressed swimmer, providing first aid, or performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation, with or without an automated external defibrillator, or the process of evacuating an aquatic venue or entire facility due to an emergency.