OpenSafely

Stay Safe Against the Coronavirus

MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCE
Even if you feel well, stay at home as much as possible. In public, keep at least 6-feet distance from others. Avoid unnecessary appointments.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE
Wear a face mask or covering in public. Cover your cough and sneezes. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

PROTECT LOUISIANANS AT RISK
Take special caution to avoid exposing the elderly and people with underlying health conditions. Stay home when sick.

Swimming Pools and Aquatic Venues

*** This does not apply to Congregate Recreational Swimming Facilities as defined below, additional information will be provided once an opening date and guidelines are determined.**

*** Refer to guidance provided for Amusement Parks, Sports Parks, Water Parks, Fairs, Festivals, or Carnivals, or similar activities for use of these facilities.**

START DATE: March 31, 2021

UPDATED March 30, 2021

The Office of State Fire Marshal is providing this update in conjunction with the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Department of Health to keep you up to date with additional information and/or changes as it becomes available during our battle with COVID-19. These notifications are issued automatically and immediately to those who sign up through "OpenSafely" (https://opensafely.la.gov/).

Every attempt is being made to highlight critical changes that have occurred since the previously published notification for your convenience. However, please read through this entire document in context as these changes do not stand on their own and all of the additional general information and clarifications made may not be highlighted.

Preface:

This phasing plan applies to those non-essential businesses that have been affected by the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. Essential (critical) infrastructure businesses are not further restricted by these new guidelines and may continue to operate under the current guidelines that are applicable to the specific business. Refer to: https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/covid/Essential-Infrastructure_fact-sheet.pdf for specific information regarding critical infrastructure businesses.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious and deadly disease. The fundamental concept of this phased opening plan is to slowly open businesses at reduced occupant capacities that will allow for social distancing and circulation to keep employees and patrons safe. Everyone's cooperation is critical to the success towards defeating this disease and revitalizing our economy.

The virus spreads primarily through person-to-person contact, from droplets that are formed by coughing, sneezing or other projections, or by touching infected surfaces and then touching one's eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals can carry the virus and be contagious for up to 14 days prior to having any symptoms. The guidelines outlined below for social distancing, face coverings and sanitation are proven methods of mitigating these modes of transmission. **THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT** to remember is that COVID-19 is still prevalent across the state. We must all continue to do our part to help slow the spread, protect the most vulnerable and continue to remain vigilant until a cure or vaccine is widely available to provide general immunity.

Every individual in Louisiana shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a commercial establishment or other building or space open to the public, whether indoor or outdoor, (except while participating in an athletic activity).

Below are a few additional public health recommendations to help businesses comply:

- See the Face Covering Guidance section below for a link to instruction on the proper use of face coverings.
- See the Referenced Documents section below for LDH's downloadable "thank you for wearing a mask" poster options 1 and 2 for business storefronts;
- Screen customers for symptoms before entry;
- Move to reservation systems to discourage congregating in groups while waiting for service;
- Adopt sick leave policies that reduce the disincentive for employees to try to come to work sick; and
- Allow employees in high-risk groups or who directly live with/care for a high-risk individual to work in areas without direct public contact.

Guidance:

Aquatics venues and swimming pools must adhere to strict mitigation standards and social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. When possible, maintain at least 6 feet of separation from other individuals not residing within the same household. Other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced**. Individuals 65 years or older, people of all ages with poor control of medical issues like high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, or a weakened immune system are at a higher risk for getting very sick or dying from COVID-19 and should strictly adhere to all CDC guidelines, and are encouraged to remain home as much as possible unless fully vaccinated - at least two weeks beyond receiving a full administration of COVID-19 vaccine.** The specific requirements and guidelines for this industry during this phase are listed below. These requirements and guidelines supplement and do not replace any directives or guidance provided

by other state agencies, boards and commissions, or other authorities having jurisdiction. Where conflicts occur, the stricter of the requirements will apply.

Limitations:

- This guidance applies to **controlled** commercial swimming facilities (both private and public), water fitness courses, swim teams & lap swimming, swimming lessons, and **controlled** recreational swimming facilities.

- **Controlled Swimming Facilities Criteria:**
    - Unless participating with supervised swim lessons or swim team activities, minors under the age of 15 should be accompanied by their parent/guardian who shall remain inside the facility at all times. The parent or guardian must be at least 18 years old.
    - Areas or attractions which create a line or potential for gathering should be clearly marked to designate physical distancing guidelines.
    - In-water activities that could reasonably result in physical contact or less than 6 feet of distancing between patrons who live in different households should not be allowed.
    - Water quality should meet all CDC guidelines and be regularly tested.

- Aquatic venues or swimming pools that are not able to continuously satisfy all "Controlled Recreational Swimming Facilities Criteria" are considered "**Congregate** Recreational Swimming Facilities" and are not included.

- Refer to guidance provided for Amusements, Water Parks, and similar activities for considered use of **Water Parks and Water Play Aquatic Venues**.

Occupant Capacity:

The maximum capacity for aquatic venues and swimming pools during the Phase 3 period is limited to 50% of normal capacity in any single space where individuals are unable to maintain strict social distancing of six feet from others that are not immediate household members.

- Occupancy should be limited to a maximum of 1 person for every 30 square feet of occupiable deck space within the aquatic venue.
    - The surface area of surrounding party rooms or other adjacent buildings, grassy areas, or the pool water surface should not be included in the total available square feet for this purpose. Staff who work within the facility shall be included in the capacity.

- Refer to guidelines for **Indoor and outdoor sports, stadium and arenas** for limitations applicable to swim meets and to the "Swim Competition Guidelines" below.

Social Distancing and Safety Rules:

- To ensure proper water quality and a safe swimming environment, aquatic venues should follow CDC guidance, which includes:
    - Maintain free chlorine levels continuously between 1–10 parts per million.
    - Maintain the pH level of the water at 7.2–7.8.

    - Maintain stabilizer (CyA) levels below 90 parts per million
        - If Cyanuric Acid is used, minimum chlorine level shall be 2 parts per million.
    - Test pH and disinfectant levels at least twice per day (hourly when in heavy use).
    - Maintain accurate records of disinfectant/pH measurements and maintenance activities.
    - Maintain filtration and recirculation systems according to manufacturer recommendations.

- Table and chair set-ups shall follow the most current guidelines for Restaurants outlined on OpenSafely.la.gov. Extra tables and chairs should be removed or made inaccessible.

- Lounge chairs should be spaced to allow patrons from different households to maintain at least 6 feet of space.

- Lap swimming, swim teams, advanced stroke lessons, and water fitness programs should provide at least 6 feet of distance between patrons at all times, other than while passing within designated lap lanes.

- Eliminate gatherings at entry/exit points and on the pool deck.

- In-water instruction such as swimming lessons are allowed where individuals are able to maintain strict social distancing of six feet from others that are not immediate household members.

- Patrons should not wear face coverings or masks while in the water.

- Hotels, apartments, HOA, and other low use facilities shall limit pool access to current residents /members only. These pools may qualify as Controlled Recreational Swimming Facilities without the requirement for a designated crowd manager if an access control system for the pool is utilized (such as a key system), and access is restricted to members only. All other criteria will apply.

- Swim Competition Guidelines:

    - Swimming competitions may continue, provided all athletes, meet officials, coaches, and spectators wear a mask at all times within the aquatics facility.
    - Athletes must wear a mask until they step onto the starting platform (or into the pool) and must immediately replace the mask upon exiting the water, before walking away from the starting/finish area.
    - Meet officials shall wear a mask at all times, except while using a whistle or signaling device to start an event.
    - No more than 1 timer shall be permitted per lane unless both timers are from the same household.
    - If spectators are allowed, the host venue/team must provide physical markers and signage to separate teams and groups within teams.

- Water Safety Training Guidelines:
    - Person to person water safety and lifeguard training is permitted. Physical spacing should be ensured between small groups at all times.
    - Participants shall wear face coverings at all times, except while practicing water skills in the pool.
    - All equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized after class each day.

Checklist for Management:

- ☒ Actively enforce the capacity, masking, and social distancing requirements and manage the visitors' movements.
- ☒ Ensure the exterior waiting areas are not blocked.
- ☒ Maintain social distancing requirements explained in this document.
- ☒ Take proactive steps to protect public health by minimizing water stagnation during closures and taking action to address building water quality prior to reopening, as recommended by the EPA: https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use
- ☒ Wherever practical, implement a reservation system, whereby patrons may sign-up to access the facility during a prearranged time-slot. Schedule cleaning breaks between time-slots.
- ☒ Modify lifeguard rescue protocols to rapidly extricate a patient to the deck and initiate ventilations with a bag-valve-mask (BVM) and in-line HEPA filter. Provide lifeguards with appropriate PPE including gloves and a BVM, which should be used in providing emergency care.
- ☒ Facilities incorporating in-water resuscitation (IWR) (providing positive pressure ventilations in the water) should temporarily discontinue this practice.

Checklist for All Staff:

- ☒ Check for fever or respiratory symptoms daily.
- ☒ Stay at least 6 feet from other employees and patrons.
- ☒ While around others, wear face coverings except while on an elevated lifeguard station that is at least 6 feet off the ground or while performing a zone rotation with a whistle in the mouth.
- ☒ Frequent handwashing is the most important hand hygiene action to stop the spread of COVID-19. Gloves are recommended when touching products, goods, money and credit cards, but are otherwise not recommended for tasks that do not normally require gloves. If gloves are worn:
    - Wash hands before putting gloves on and after removing gloves.
    - Gloves should be changed between tasks, when they are obviously soiled, and after each interaction with a new individual.
- ☒ If gloves are not available, use hand sanitizer between each task and after visitor interaction.

☒ Clean and sanitize items frequently touched by employees.

☒ Clean and sanitize surfaces that customers touch often, like gate handles, handrails, chairs, etc. Current evidence suggests that SARS-CoV-2 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces, as well as high-touch surfaces, followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 and other viral respiratory illnesses in community settings. Follow the CDC guidance for proper cleaning and disinfecting. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

☒ Clean and disinfect the restrooms regularly.

☒ Do not touch patrons, except while providing emergency care or first aid.

Face Covering Guidance:

Refer to Louisiana Department of Health guidance here:
http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/CDC-DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf

Steps for Cleaning Areas and Other Items:

NOTE: Although properly treated swimming pool water is safe, it is not considered an EPA-approved disinfectant for hard or porous surfaces. Splashing pool water on a surface is not a substitute for proper cleaning and disinfection.

1. First, clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty.

2. Then, use disinfectant.

    - If possible, use EPA-registered household disinfectant.

    - Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.

      Many products recommend:
      - Keeping surfaces wet for a period of time (see product label).
      - Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

      Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.
      - Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening, may not be suitable for disinfection.
      - Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
      - Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
      - Leave the solution on the surface for at least 1 minute.

      To make a bleach solution, mix:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) of bleach per gallon of water; or
- 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.

Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.

The CDC offers this additional guidance for cleaning: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html

Referenced Documents:

- ❑ Essential (Critical Infrastructure) Services remain operational with guidelines in place. See: https://gov.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/covid/Essential-Infrastructure_fact-sheet.pdf
- ❑ Face mask sign option 1: http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/Face-Mask-Sign-Option-1.pdf
- ❑ Face mask sign option 2: http://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Coronavirus/resources/Face-Mask-Sign-Option-2.pdf

Signage Samples:

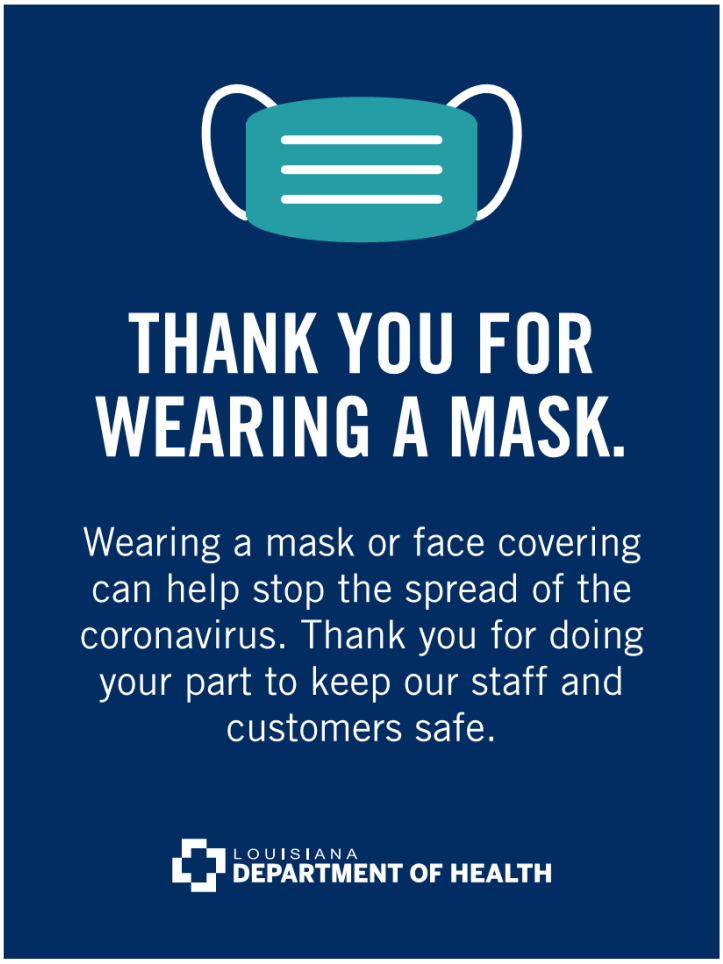
COVID-19 DAILY SELF CHECKLIST

Review this COVID-19 Daily Self Checklist before entering this establishment.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS?

- Fever (temperature over 100.4°F) without having taken any fever reducing medications
- Loss of smell or taste
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite
- Asked to self-isolate or quarantine by a medical professional or by a local public health official

SYMPTOMS MAY APPEAR **2-14 DAYS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE VIRUS.**

If you answered yes to any of the above symptoms in the checklist, please do not enter this establishment and seek medical advice immediately.

For more information, please visit: *http://ldh.la.gov/coronaviurs* or *http://cdc.gov*.