



Scottish
Swimming

Pool Operators

Back to the Water

COVID-19 Guidance

Phase 3

Updated: 18th September 2020

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1.0 Introduction

In order to support pool operators in Scotland as they seek to change work practices to ensure a safe return to the pool and re-opening of facilities, we have developed this guidance in collaboration with industry partners and **sportscotland** taking into account the current guidelines released from the Scottish Government. The guidance aims to support operators to develop plans to re-open swimming facilities following the period of closure, due to COVID-19, and provides guidance on reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the swimming pool environment.

It will highlight the continued requirements for safe physical distancing and enhanced hygiene regimes, along with guidance on how this will impact on the operational management of swimming facilities. Operator will need to be able to adapt to changes in guidance at short notice. Information on Scottish Governments approach to managing COVID-19 is available at [Scottish Government: Coronavirus in Scotland](#).

Additional plans and guidance have been developed for **People Development, Aquatic Participation, Club Management, Club Training** and **Aquatic Sports Competition** as highlighted in our Back to the Water Route Map. These can be found on [Scottish Swimming's COVID-19 Guidance Hub](#).

Links to best practice and other industry standard guidance will be provided where appropriate.

As with all environments, there is still a level of risk of COVID-19 transmission in aquatic settings that requires control measures to be implemented.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Scottish Government's [guidance on sport and leisure facilities](#) and [guidance for returning to work safely](#).

For Lifeguarding, please ensure you are also following [RLSS UK guidance](#) or your provider's guidance at all times.

2.0 Operator Guidance

2.1 COVID-19 Officer

Pool operators should have a dedicated officer responsible for COVID-19 to ensure all appropriate management processes are in place so that they can effectively oversee and maintain the implementation of measures outlined herein and other essential guidance and standards.

2.2 Essential guidance and standards

Operators should also ensure they are continuing to comply with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and are operating in accordance with the following guidance and standards:

- The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) Code of Practice(pwtag.org)
- The Swimming Pool Water Book (pwtag.org)
- PWTAG Technical notes (pwtag.org)
- BS EN 13451 Swimming pool equipment. BS EN 15288 Part 1 and 2 Swimming Pools for Public Use, Safety Requirements for Design and Operation.
- HSG 179 – Health & Safety in Swimming Pools.
- [Scottish Government's guidance on Sport and Leisure Facilities](#)
- [Guidance for Swimming Pool Operators Managing Lifeguards during COVID-19](#)
- [sportscotland – Getting Your Facility Fit for Sport](#)
- [UK Active: COVID-19 A framework for the reopening of gyms, leisure centres and the wider fitness industry during physical distancing](#)

2.3 Pool water and pool hall management

2.3.1 Pool Water

The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) is the recognised body for swimming water quality standards in the UK, operators should ensure their pool is operating within the guidance detailed in PWTAG technical notes which can be found at pwtag.org.

Swimming pools across Scotland are commonly disinfected with chlorine (as a primary disinfectant) with a secondary disinfection method in the form of UV light or Ozone. SARS-CoV-2, the virus which causes COVID-19, is an enveloped virus that is likely to be more sensitive to chlorination than, for example, non-enveloped enterovirus such as adenovirus (World Health Organisation, 2020). There are no Ct values for SARS-CoV-2, but a reported Ct-value (4-log reduction) for adenovirus is 0.75 mg/L min at pH 7.0 (Thurston-Enriquez et al, 2003).

This enables the pool operator to state with confidence that COVID 19 would not be transmissible through the swimming pool water if the pool is operated in line with this guidance and that of PWTAG.

COVID-19 Recommended Pool Chemical levels:

Free Chlorine – min 1.5mg/l

pH – 7.0

2.3.2 Air Handling/Circulation in Pool Halls

Most air conditioning systems do not need adjustment, however where systems serve multiple buildings, or you are unsure, advice should be sought from your heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) engineers or advisers.

All heating/cooling, ventilation systems should be checked by a suitably qualified person prior to opening and a separate risk assessment carried out to consider points including increasing natural and mechanical ventilation whilst maintaining acceptable internal environment conditions (air velocity, temperature, humidity, Ventilation/ACH) and the short or long term solutions considered and applied.

Although it can be difficult to definitively prove airborne transmission, our knowledge of other similar viruses and the emerging evidence showing high rates of infection in poorly ventilated rooms, suggests that we should consider this as a potential transmission route and undertake measures to reduce that risk. Small droplets may be breathed in and cause infection.

Until the understanding of the significance of the various transmission routes of SARS-CoV2 develops, operators should ensure the rate of supply of outside air to occupants is a minimum of 20L per person per second as a precautionary measure. A typical 25 metre 6 lane pool will have an air volume in excess of 4,000 m³, a pool hall should undertake a complete air change a minimum of four times per hour, that is an equivalent of 4,444L every second, with a maximum occupancy under Covid-19 of 1 person per 6 m² in a 25 metre 6 lane pool there would be 56 people, at 100% fresh air that is equivalent to over 80L per person per second.

Anecdotal evidence shows that warmer temperatures and high humidity all play a part in mitigating the risk of airborne transmission. Additionally the increased ratio of air to participants in a swimming pool hall lowers the risk further.

This guidance is subject to change as SARS-CoV-2 transmission routes become more clearly defined. Until then this takes a risk averse approach to reduce indoor pollution without significant capital expenditure.

When evaluating the capacity of the pool hall, it is important that operators take into consideration the impact of ventilation on the overall capacity of the building. For more information please refer to [sportscotland – Getting Your Facility Fit for Sport](#) guidance.

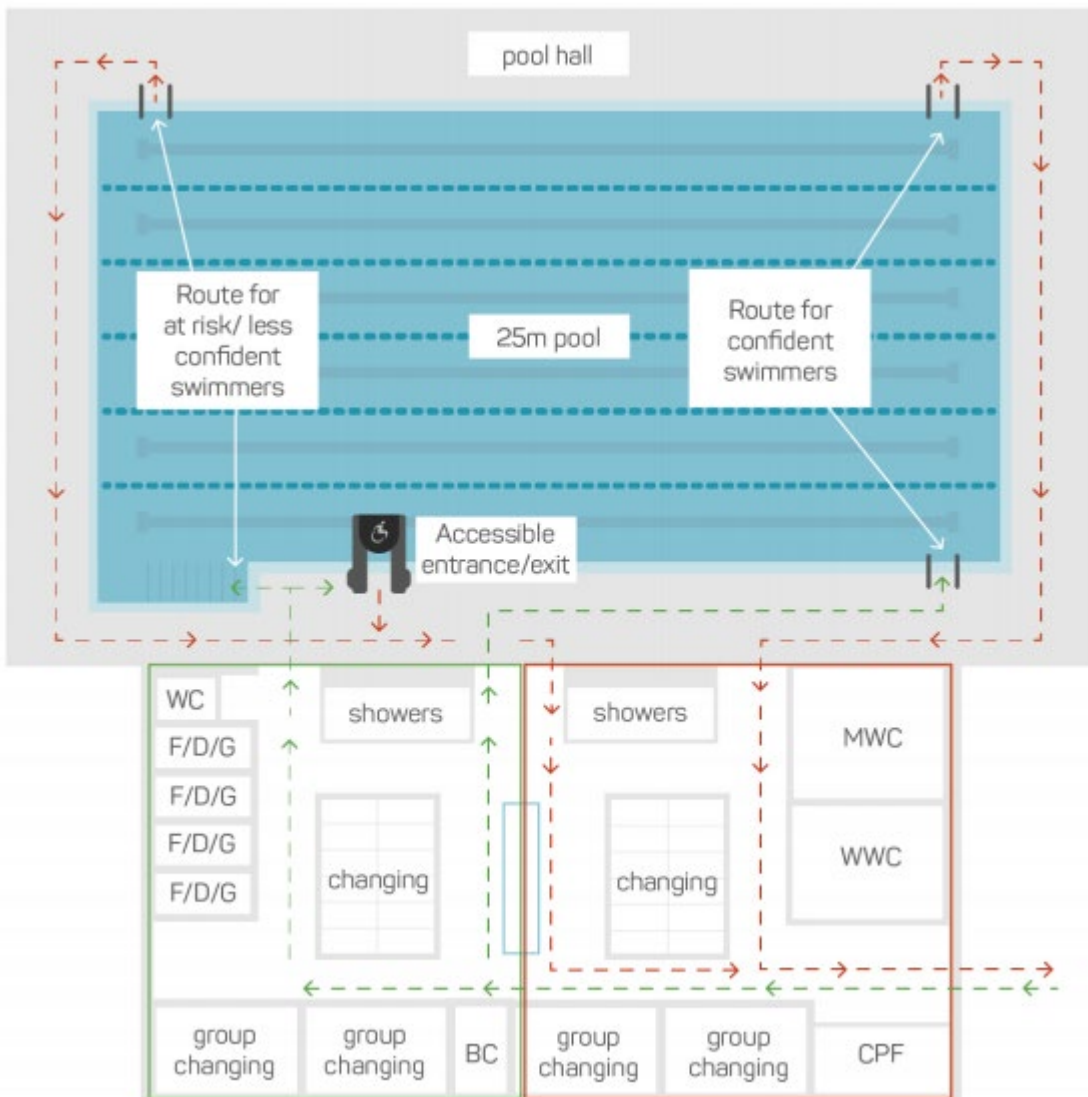
2.3.3 Outdoor Pools

This guidance is applicable to all pools including outdoor facilities, the requirements relating to air handling/circulation of course will not apply to outdoor facilities. Please ensure you follow PWTAG technical guidance notes for the chemical parameters of outdoor pools.

2.4 Risk Assessment

Reflecting pool operators' obligation in law to undertake a risk assessment, the following will help you assess the risk and make the appropriate adjustments. A facility operating their swimming pool, disinfection and pH to the advised parameters as set out on pwtag.org will greatly reduce the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in the swimming pool water, therefore we must focus on reducing the potential transmission via inhalation of air droplets within the atmosphere and touch points around the building.

Entry and egress from the pool tank are pinch points where users may congregate and should be considered. Implementing a one-way system of entry and exit is a possible solution to reducing this risk. An accessible entry/exit option should be available at all times for those who require it.



2.5 Assessing the risk in the pool – physical distancing

Maintaining physical distancing is paramount in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between participants, this is important both whilst in and out of the water.

In further government guidance, Coronavirus (COVID-19): re-opening schools guide published 28th May, 2020 states:

Physical distancing measures fall into two broad categories:

- increasing separation
- decreasing interaction

It also outlines limited exceptions to the physical distancing including “*very brief interactions within 2m, such as limited numbers of people passing each other in corridors...are considered low risk and are permissible.*”

Therefore in the process of assessing risk, and determining maximum occupancies for swimming activities, operators should consider methods to adjust the following variables:

Increase Separation: The greater the separation (**distance**) between participants the lower the level of risk of transmission via air droplets.

Decreasing interaction: The less interaction (**duration**) at which participants are within close proximity, the lower the level of risk of transmission via air droplets.

Activity: The way in which participants move during the activity will determine how you can control the above two parameters, for example lane swimming is a controlled setting where participants are guided to swim in a set direction.

Consequently, the further the distance away from other participants the lower the risk level of transmission and the less time they are within close proximity of another person, this lowers again the risk of transmission. The combination of both, along with the type of activity, provides a risk factor profile that operators can use to determine what and how specific activities within the pool can be programmed.

Whilst static in the water, participants should follow current government guidance on physical distancing, however whilst travelling, duration can be considered as a mitigating factor to risk. For example, during a swimming lesson or club training session where the activity is controlled, it will be unavoidable that whilst passing participants will come in to close proximity of each other, however the duration of time would be significantly low, providing reassurance that the risk of transmission of infection would be low enough to be deemed as acceptable.

Maximum pool capacities – taking the above parameters into account; distance, duration and activity, we recommended that the pool operator does not permit a bather load of any less than 6 sqm per participant during any activity.

However, each activity should be assessed individually to ascertain the specific bather loading, considering the activities effect on the distance and time at which swimmers can maintain safe physical distancing. For example, an activity such as an open public swim session where participants are moving freely and more randomly around the designated area in the pool will require a higher square metre area per participant in order to maintain a safe level of risk. In comparison an activity like aqua aerobics where movement is controlled and close contact can be easily avoided, a lower square metre area per participant such as a minimum of 6 sqm should be sufficient. Other factors such as depth, demographics of the participants and ability should also be considered.

2.5.1 Exemptions to physical distancing

Family Swimming:

Swimming with members of the same household would not require the physical distancing measures detailed above, however swimmers must be well informed and aware that they must maintain the physical distancing guidance above with any other swimmers not within their household and staff at all times. For carers the same principles would apply.

Children:

Children aged 11 years and younger are not required to physically distance at any time, as set out in Scottish Government guidance.

For those over 12 years of age taking part in indoor sporting or leisure activity normal physical distancing rules should be followed.

Using the guidance set out above in the “assessing the risk in the pool – physical distancing” section, any programmed session in the pool for participants over 12 years of age should attempt to maintain physical distancing in line with government advice and risk assess on age, ability and activity.

2.5.2 Higher-risk users

Those that are categorised as higher-risk of developing complications from coronavirus (COVID-19) infection by the Scottish Government ([NHS inform](#)), such as those over 70 or pregnant women, may still wish to take part in aquatic activities when pools reopen. Providers should consider how they will control risk to these user groups through their programme.

2.6 Pool Programming – phased return

It is anticipated, as a result of COVID-19, that pool operators will need to assess the viability of re-opening their swimming pools whilst following the Scottish Government guidelines on physical distancing and enhanced hygiene procedures. This will involve a review of pool programmes and a phased approach to returning to activities.

This phased approach is likely to be required in order to manage the requirements of physical distancing and a safe environment for users. Operators will also need to take into consideration the availability and number of staff to deliver activities within their programme, due to illness and the Scottish Government’s guidance around self-isolating.

Scottish Swimming recommend operators consider the return of controlled programmed aquatic activities first such as Club Training where robust procedures can be applied by the club. Scottish Swimming have produced detailed guidance and support to ensure Club Training is a safe environment for swimmers to return in [Scottish Swimming Club Training Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#). This could be followed by other programmed activities such as pre-booked lane swimming sessions or instructor-led sessions. Swimming lessons and further programmed aquatic activities which may involve a wider range of users and considerations to overcome should then be introduced as they look to expand on the

tried and tested procedures to manage larger volumes of people in their facility and further workforce become available to return.

It is important pool operators consider all their users groups when planning for the short, medium and long term return to activity to establish a balanced programme with affordable opportunities and awareness of the local community and demographics.

The risk factor profile can help you assess the risk of potential transmission of COVID-19 and this can be used as part of your risk assessment to help you understand the viability of an activity or session.

By limiting multi-activity use of the pool and programming only one activity at a time, with clear start and finish times, it will be easier to manage participant numbers and additional time can be programmed for cleaning. This will also help control the number of participants using the changing rooms at any one time.

If your facility has a main pool and training pool you will need to risk assess whether it is possible to run two activities at the same time (one in each pool). One consideration to help you achieve this would be to stagger the start and finish times of the sessions, to manage the number of participants in the changing rooms and on poolside at any one time.

To help manage the capacity of sessions you may choose to offer pre-bookable sessions only. Therefore, a time limit may need to be applied to casual and lane swimming bookings.

Although you will need to review your programme in light of the Scottish Government's guidelines on physical distancing, it is still important to understand your target audience and their needs or concerns at this time.

3.0 Managing aquatic activities

Below are the guiding principles that should be considered in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. More detailed guidance and support will also be provided per activity.

For Lifeguarding, please ensure you are also following [RLSS UK guidance](#) or your provider's guidance at all times.

Providers must create their own risk assessment for each activity before implementing any of the activities listed below.

3.1 Club training

The following guidance is designed to support clubs and operators when considering the factors that are likely to influence training sessions while physical distancing measures remain in place.

- Clubs should have a dedicated officer responsible for COVID-19 liaison, making sure that from the club's perspective they are up to date with Scottish Swimming's and Scottish Government Guidance.
- Providers should discuss with the club any changes that may affect club access.
- Providers should request risk assessments for managing club activity to ensure physical distancing and venue capacity are maintained during club session. It is advised that clubs should do this in collaboration with providers
- Providers should consider pool set-up required for club training sessions.
- Clubs should provide guidance on physical distancing **and face covering** procedures to club personnel, coaches and members in line with Scottish Government guidelines and providers procedures
- Clubs should consider the required number of coaches on deck and adhere to physical distancing
- Providers should consider the practicalities of getting club swimmers to and from the poolside, particularly as the majority of facilities might also be in use by the public
- Club members should adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing when walking or waiting on poolside
- Clubs should review available pool space to allow for correct physical distancing, including entry and exit points
- Providers and clubs should allow sufficient time between squads for cleaning and to reduce the chance of clustering groups
- Participants must bring their own personal equipment
- All equipment should be sanitised before and after each activity. This can be achieved simply and effectively by rinsing equipment in the pool
- Equipment that cannot be sanitised in the pool should be appropriately cleaned between activities. Touch points of both fixed and free equipment, such as handrails and access stairs, should be cleaned after every session.
- Spectating should be discouraged. Where attendance of a parent or guardian (non-participant) is required, it should be limited to one per participant where possible, with physical distancing **and face coverings** strictly observed while watching the sessions

Click for further support and guidance on [Club Training](#) and [Club Management](#)

3.2 Aquatic Participation

3.2.1 Swimming Lessons

The following guidance relates to swimming lessons for all ages, including school swimming.

- Providers should have a dedicated officer responsible for COVID-19 considerations, making sure that they are up to date with Scottish Government recommendations
- When determining the capacity of classes, providers should consider the guidance on physical distancing and assessing risk in the pool
- Providers should review available pool space to allow for correct physical distancing, including entry and exit points
- Providers should review lesson programmes to allow sufficient time for cleaning, minimise interactions and allow physical distancing at pinch points; pick-up / drop off points, showers, changing rooms and viewing areas
- Providers should consider limiting spectating to only one adult who is responsible for their child at a swimming lesson to maintain physical distancing
- Providers should evaluate the number of personnel on poolside to allow physical distancing
- Teachers should deliver from poolside and adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing **and face coverings**
- All equipment should be sanitised before and after each activity. This can be achieved simply and effectively by rinsing equipment in the pool
- Equipment that cannot be sanitised in the pool should be appropriately cleaned between activities. Touch points of both fixed and free equipment, such as handrails and access stairs, should be cleaned after every session

Click for further support and guidance on [Aquatic Participation for Swimming Lessons](#).

3.2.2 Community activity

The following guidance relates to activities for the public including casual swimming, lane swimming, family fun sessions and casual sessions involving floats.

- Providers should review their pool programme in advance of opening, to limit multi-activity use at any one time
- Providers should review available pool space and set-up to allow for correct physical distancing, including entry and exit points
- When determining the capacity of community activities, providers should consider the advice on assessing risk in the pool
- Participants should adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing when walking or waiting on poolside
- While in the water participants should adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing in relation to others in the pool or those on poolside
- Providers should consider asking participants not to overtake whilst lane swimming in order to comply with physical distancing measures

- Participants from the same household can participate amongst themselves without physical distancing as per government guidelines
- Equipment should not be issued to customers for community activity during this time and where possible participants should bring their own for example floats, kickboards, pull buoys etc...
- Equipment that cannot be sanitised in the pool should be appropriately cleaned between activities. Touch points of both fixed and free equipment, such as handrails and access stairs, should be cleaned after every session.

Click for further support and guidance on [Aquatic Participation for Community Swimming and Instructor-Led Activity](#)

3.2.3 Instructor-Led Activity

The following guidance relates to activities that require an instructor on poolside but are not a swimming lesson. This may include aquafit, exercise referral and 'SwimFit' sessions.

- When determining the capacity of classes, providers should consider the advice on assessing risk in the pool.
- Providers should review available pool space and pool set-up to allow for correct physical distancing, including at entry and exit points
- Instructors should deliver from poolside and adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing **and face coverings**
- Participants should adhere to Scottish Government guidance on physical distancing when walking or waiting on poolside
- While static in the water participants should adhere to Government guidance on physical distancing in relation to others in the pool or those on poolside
- Where possible participants should bring their own equipment
- When session planning, instructors should aim to rotate the use of different pieces of equipment from one session to the next rather than during a session, this will minimise the amount of cleaning required
- All equipment should be sanitised before and after each activity. This can be achieved simply and effectively by rinsing equipment in the pool
- Equipment that cannot be sanitised in the pool should be appropriately cleaned between activities. Touch points of both fixed and free equipment, such as handrails and access stairs, should be cleaned after every session.

Click for further support and guidance on [Aquatic Participation for Community Swimming and Instructor-Led Activity](#)

3.3 Slides, flumes and other features

These activities would need to be risk assessed on an individual basis to ensure the risk of transmission of COVID-19 can be adequately controlled. Considerations for physical distancing whilst waiting to ride the slide/flume and cleaning of surfaces must be made.

3.4 Diving boards and starting blocks

As above, the use of diving boards and starting blocks would need to be risk assessed on an individual basis, considering surface contamination.

4.0 Inclusion Practice

- Those who are high risk or shielding should follow the medical guidance issued to them at all times see [NHS Guidance](#)
- Operators should encourage users that require additional support or use of disabled facilities, including disabled changing and pool pods/hoists, to make contact with the facility in advance of their visit. This will avoid multiple users needing to use the disabled facilities at the same time and allow time for the changing facilities and equipment to be cleaned before they may be needed again.
- Members of public who require support to access facilities or get changed should bring the support from their home/pod. For those who have higher care needs this could mean two to three people can support them in accessing facilities/activities
- If a member of public needs to use a chair to access poolside consider where this can be best placed in the new system for people to enter and exit facility
- Members of the public who use guide dogs should be allowed to access facilities. Guide dogs should not be patted or smoothed by anybody else other than the person they are there to support and their family/pod. There is further guidance available from guide dogs UK and the plant and health agency.

For more information and guidance please visit – www.scottishdisabilitysport.com

5.0 Customer Journey

5.1 Pre-booking

Advice to pool users should be at all times to attempt to maintain physical distancing i.e. when stopping/standing in the water or whilst on poolside and within the changing rooms. In order to control capacities in these areas operators may choose to run using bookable sessions only, which will be subjected to the new maximum occupancy levels in the pool and the impact changing rooms may have on these numbers. Operators should implement an effective method of controlling and recording the numbers of pool users. There are various ways to do this, such as coloured band systems, locker tokens/keys, access kiosks, pre-booked admissions and turnstiles. There may be opportunities to consider programming and which user groups can return

5.1.1 Test and Protect

[Test and Protect](#), is Scotland's way of putting into practice NHS Scotland's test, trace, isolate and support strategy.

Containing outbreaks early is crucial to reduce the spread of COVID-19, protect the NHS and save lives, and avoid the reintroduction of social and economic lockdown. This will support the country to return to, and maintain, a more normal way of life.

5.1.2 Maintaining customer records

It is a mandatory requirement that pool operators collect the name, contact number, date of visit, time of arrival, and where possible the departure time of all those attending facilities or activities. Where attending as a small household group, the contact details for one member – a ‘lead member’ – will be sufficient. Pool operators should collect and keep the contact details of participants and visitors for a period of 21 days and share it when requested to do so by public health officers.

In order to gather and store customer information securely, pool operators may need to be registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). This will be the case if you are using an electronic system to gather and store data

If you are unsure whether you need to register, please contact the ICO via their helpline on 0303 123 1113, or visit www.ico.org.uk.

5.2 Information for pool users

Any pool will be safer if users are aware of the potential of COVID-19 transmission, and act responsibly, as far as reasonably practicable. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, such as notices and signs displayed at reception, in changing areas and on the poolside and information on websites.

5.3 Safety information and signs

Safety signs should be considered as a part of an operator’s package of risk control measures. They can be used to warn and remind the users to maintain physical distancing. Where provided, pool operators should maintain safety signs, ensure that signs are located in appropriate positions and unobstructed, for example by equipment or plant and explain the signs to their employees and tell them what they should do when they see a safety sign.

5.4 Face Coverings

Pool operators should ensure participants and visitors wear face coverings, if indoors, before and after activity or when in non-playing areas of the facility e.g. reception, changing room and spectator areas. This is a mandatory requirement.

5.5 Reception areas

- Hand wipes/sanitiser will be on offer (or directed to where people can clean hands)
- Gloves are not mandatory as the WHO advice is that it is preferable not to wear gloves but to regularly wash your hands
- Screens protecting reception staff are preferable but are optional
- Queue management – physical distancing spacing bars on the floor and if necessary outside the entrance
- One parent/ guardian to escort the swimmer if required to all activities

- Customers encouraged to only turn up for their session time
- Display/provide users with the physical distancing guidance
- Make regular announcements to remind users to follow physical distancing advice and clean their hands regularly

5.6 Access routes and corridors

Ideally, where practicable, a one-way system should be introduced and areas of contact/touch points reduced

5.7 Changing rooms

Swimmers have a personal responsibility as does the operator in this critical part of the swimming journey. The management of occupancy levels and reviewing both the hygiene and cleaning regime are important. The requirements for physical distancing need to be considered which will include consideration of the size, style ('village style', group change etc.) as well as the layout of changing rooms to determine changing room capacities enabling physical distancing to be respected by customers and time allocated for cleaning.

To mitigate the effect of this, facilities may want to encourage a 'beach style turn up and swim' option to minimise time spent in the changing rooms or allow access straight to poolside.

What is 'beach style turn up and swim'?

- Come ready changed (costume under clothing) – cubicles or individual changing rooms may be available
- We encourage swimmers to shower directly before leaving home. Showers may be available at the pool for pre / post rinse
- Whilst taking account of safeguarding, operators may wish to consider additional designated changing areas with temporary screening.

What will 'beach style turn up and swim' mean?

- Less time spent in changing areas and more time to swim.
- Showers may be available for pre and post swim rinse

In changing areas providers should:

- provide washing facilities and hand sanitizer
- consider hygiene arrangements to limit surface contamination in cubicles, lockers and toilets
- consider floor stickers/markings indicating physical distancing in open plan single sex changing rooms, locker and shower areas
- establish occupancy levels to assist physical distancing arrangements
- implement effective cleaning regimes, paying particular attention to touch points

For detailed facility guidance including a checklist that covers use of changing rooms, showers and toilets visit [Scottish Government - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on sport and leisure facilities](#).

6.0 Further Guidance

Further detailed guidance is being developed in line with our Scottish Swimming's Back to Water Route Map for each section and phase and will evolve as advice and guidance is made available from Scottish Government. For more information on specific guidance please see below.

Scottish Swimming:

[Scottish Swimming Club Management Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Scottish Swimming Club Training Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Scottish Swimming Aquatic Participation Swimming Lessons Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Scottish Swimming Aquatic Participation Community Swimming and Instructor-Led Activity Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#)

[Scottish Swimming Aquatic Educators Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#)

External guidance:

[Scottish Government - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance on sport and leisure facilities](#)

[Scottish Government - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): returning to work safely](#)

[NHS Inform](#)

[Health Protection Scotland: COVID-19 Non-Healthcare Settings guidance](#)

[sportscotland - Getting Your Facility Fit for Sport](#)

[sportscotland – Getting Coaches Ready for return to sport and physical exercise](#)

7.0 Disclaimer

When referring to any documents and associated attachments in this guidance, please note the following:

1. Reliance upon the guidance or use of the content of this website will constitute your acceptance of this disclaimer.
2. The term guidance should be taken to imply the standards and best practice solutions that are acceptable to Scottish Swimming.
3. The documents and any associated drawing material are intended for information only.

4. The content of this guidance is considered by Scottish Swimming to be correct at the time of publication. Amendments, alterations and updates of documents and drawings may take place from time to time and pool operators should review at the time of use to ensure the most up to-date versions are being referred to and satisfy themselves that there has been no change in position.
5. All downloadable drawings, images and photographs are intended solely to illustrate how elements of a facility can apply Scottish Swimming's suggestions and should be read in conjunction with any relevant design guidance, British and European Standards, Health and Safety Legislation and guidance, building regulations, planning and the principles of the Equality Act 2010.
6. The drawings are not 'site specific' and are outline proposals. They are not intended for, and should not be used in conjunction with, the procurement of building work, construction, obtaining statutory approvals, or any other services in connection with building works.
7. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy of all information, Scottish Swimming and its agents, including all parties who have made contributions to any documents or downloadable drawings, shall not be held responsible or be held liable to any third parties in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from reliance placed on this information without prejudice.
8. The views expressed are not intended to take away or diminish the responsibility of the user to comply with appropriate current or future legislation or standards and if there are any conflicts between the views expressed in any of sportscotland design guidance material and other appropriate current or future legislation, the latter shall take precedence.
9. The content of this guidance does not constitute specific advice to pool operators; this is a guide and the information should help pool operators make their own decisions in due course. We recommend that you obtain professional specialist technical and legal advice before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of information contained in this note.
10. Pool operators should continue to check information published by the Scottish Government and sportscotland after reading this guidance.

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This guidance is not intended for, and should not be used in connection with, any procurement activities, or for obtaining planning or other statutory approvals. Pool operators hold and will continue to hold Scottish Swimming free from all harm and liabilities arising from any action taken by pool operators under this guidance.

8.0 Acknowledgements

Scottish Swimming would like to thank everyone involved in the creation of this guidance, in particular: UK Active; Community Leisure Scotland; **sportscotland**; Public Health Scotland; PWTAG; Swim England; Swim Ireland; Swim Wales

9.0 References

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