

# GUIDANCE FOR OUTDOOR SPRAY PARKS AND WADING POOLS

## Overview

Under current Chief Medical Officer of Health Orders, businesses and entities are required to:

- implement practices to minimize the risk of transmission of infection among attendees;
- provide procedures for rapid response if an attendee develops symptoms of illness;
- ensure that attendees maintain high levels of sanitation and personal hygiene;
- comply, to the extent possible, with the [COVID-19 General Relaunch Guidance](#), this guidance, and any other applicable Alberta Health guidance found at: <https://www.alberta.ca/biz-connect.aspx>.

This document has been developed to support operators of spray parks and wading pools in reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 among attendees (including workers, volunteers, attendees and the general public). The guidance provided outlines public health and infection prevention and control measures, specific to spray parks and wading pools.

Operators of public spray parks and wading pools must continue to comply with requirements in the [Public Swimming Pools Regulation](#) and [Pool Standards](#). Operators are encouraged to call their local public health inspector with AHS prior to re-opening an aquatic facility. Public health inspectors can assist in provided resources and support for reopening facilities during pandemic.

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: <https://www.alberta.ca/covid-19-information.aspx>

## COVID-19 Risk Mitigation

<b>Before Reopening</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many spray parks and wading pools have had reduced or no water flow through the plumbing system during the pandemic, leading to the stagnation of water in the pipes.</li><li>• Prior to re-opening, each site should ensure fresh water replaces the stagnant water in the water lines. See <a href="#">Guidance for Flushing Water Systems</a>.</li></ul>
<b>General Guidance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage and facilitate attendees staying up to date with developments related to <a href="#">COVID-19</a>.</li><li>• Notify attendees of the steps being taken to prevent the risk of transmission, and the importance of their roles in these measures.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ COVID-19 signage should be posted in highly visible locations:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ “Help prevent the spread” posters are <a href="#">available</a>.</li><li>▪ When possible, provide necessary information in languages that are preferred by attendees.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• All Albertans must follow CMOH <a href="#">Order 05-2020</a>, which establishes legal requirements for quarantine and isolation.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, with a history of travel outside Canada in the last 14 days, and anyone who has had close contact with a COVID-19 case in the last 14 days must</li></ul></li></ul>

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	<p>remain at home.</p>
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical distancing means maintaining a distance of at least 2 metres between attendees, who are not from the same household or cohort family, at all times.</li> <li>For gatherings, follow <a href="#">current restrictions</a>.</li> <li>Where physical controls are not possible or appropriate:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider reducing the number of attendees at one time.</li> <li>Develop strategies to minimize the handling of objects between multiple attendees and ensure frequent cleaning and disinfecting of these objects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfecting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to the General Guidance, Operators should:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement procedures for increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting of high touch surfaces (such as tables, deck fixtures, moveable nozzles, touch-activated sensors).</li> <li>Consider limiting hours of operations to enable frequent cleaning.</li> <li>Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Train staff on how to avoid cross-contamination when removing gloves.</li> <li>Ensure garbage bins with removable linings are available and emptied regularly.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Hand Hygiene &amp; Respiratory Etiquette</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operators should promote frequent and proper hand hygiene for all attendees.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Either supply or promote attendees bringing and using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (greater than 60% alcohol content).</li> </ul> </li> <li>The use of highly visible posters that remind attendees to practice respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene is strongly encouraged.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Posters are available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Masks should not be worn while playing in spray parks and wading pools, as they present a safety risk.</li> <li>Masks may be worn by attendees on the deck of the spray park or wading pool. Guidance is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Shared Items &amp; Equipment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where compliant with manufacturing and engineering instructions, consider adjusting timing settings on spray park components to reduce the need for users to touch the on/off dials and buttons.</li> <li>Limit the use of shared equipment wherever possible.</li> <li>Limit the use of pool toys to flotation aids only.</li> <li>Attendees should not share uncleaned towels, goggles, or any other equipment other than with family members.</li> </ul>
<b>Additional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">COVID-19 Information for Albertans</a></li> <li><a href="#">Alberta Biz Connect</a></li> </ul>