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## PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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### Relaxation of COVID-19 Requirements for Water Recreation Facilities

Due to the extremely hot weather we are experiencing in the state, Washington State Department of Health has decided to provide allowance and flexibility with the COVID protocols for water recreation facilities outlined in this document [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance and Reopening of Water Recreation Facilities in Phases](#) before June 30, 2021.

The reduction of COVID-19 guidelines for water recreation facilities is described in more detail below. Operating these facilities also involves following the routine requirements found in WAC 246-260 and WAC 246-262. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Adequate lifeguarding following the lifeguarding plans at each water recreation facility that is required to have lifeguards
- Adequate provision of restrooms, locker rooms, and shower rooms where required
- Proper maintenance of water quality (disinfectant and pH are in the acceptable ranges).

Your facility must have appropriately trained staff on site who can safely maintain the sanitizing and other chemical levels of your water recreation facility. These staff need to have the time to maintain proper and safe chemical levels in your water recreation facility (i.e., they must be able to check and adjust sanitizer levels several times a day in response to likely heavy bather loads). They will also need the chemical and other supplies on hand to maintain the facilities.

As long as it is safe to do so determined by the managers and pool operators of the facilities and it does not violate any other local, state, and federal laws and regulations, water recreation facilities regulated under WAC 246-260 and WAC 246-262 are allowed as of June 28, 2021 to:

- Open the facilities using the normal time (non-COVID time) maximum occupancy limits
- Physical distancing, health screening, and environmental cleaning and disinfection are still recommended, but not required
- Masks should be worn by unvaccinated people in an indoor environment when not in the water

We are all relieved to see the number of new COVID-19 cases decrease in our communities. Getting vaccinated and continuing to social distance, mask indoors, and isolate and quarantine as needed, are still the best methods to reduce spread. Your facility may be contacted to assist public health staff if multiple cases occur amongst residents or users of your facility.

Questions about this update can be directed to Bob Poole, [bob.poole@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:bob.poole@co.thurston.wa.us), 360.867.2574, or Sammy Berg, [sammy.berg@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:sammy.berg@co.thurston.wa.us), 360.867.2568.