

## Phase II Initial guidelines for pools

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has enacted emergency regulations regarding the operation of all public pools, including pools at condominium and apartment complexes. In addition to existing rules and regulations about the licensing of aquatic venues (216-RICR-50-05-4), highlights of the additional requirements include:

- Occupancy limits of any aquatic venue will be determined as one person per 150 square feet of area that includes the pool(s) and patios surrounding the pool(s). **Licensees with oversized decks may find that their COVID Phase II facility capacity based on this formula (one person/150 square feet) is too high and would not be safe or manageable. In these cases, RIDOH recommends that licensees reduce their facility capacity to a level that ensures reasonable operation and the ability for visitors and staff to maintain six feet of space from others, whether in the pool or on the deck.**
- Each facility must post signs indicating reduced capacity limits for pools and, if applicable, spas.
- Spas and whirlpools in fitness centers and gyms must remain closed. Spas and whirlpools located in other types of facilities can allow one person at a time. Spas shall only be used by those who have made a reservation.
- Each aquatic venue must have an Operations Plan that includes descriptions of how water quality will be maintained, how the facility will be operated, and making staff and visitors aware of all aspects of the Plan.
- Restrooms and single-occupancy showers must remain open, soap dispensers must be stocked, and single-occupancy showers must be sanitized between uses. Single-occupancy showers must satisfy the established shower-to-bather ratio. Communal showers are prohibited.
- Cloth face coverings shall be worn by all staff and visitors in compliance with current Executive Orders. Cloth face coverings should not be worn while in the pool. Swimmers must store their cloth face coverings while they are in the pool so that no one else has access to their face covering.
- If aquatic venues decide to provide equipment that is shared (floats, swim noodles, life jackets), they must be sanitized between use. Visitors are allowed to bring their own equipment, and they must take it with them when they leave.
- Staff at aquatic venues will screen visitors and assure that all visitors maintain the proper physical distance at all times.
- Aquatic venues must collect contact information from all swimmers and visitors and keep it on file for 30 days should any contact tracing need to occur. After 30 days, the information must be permanently destroyed.
- Aquatic venues will be required to comply with Rhode Island requirements for operating under the COVID crisis, as well as CDC requirements for aquatic venues.
- Aquatic venues that are within condominium and apartment complexes must provide RIDOH with designated points of contact for the facility and must provide a plan to assure an attendant is on duty at all times the pool is open.

For [the full text of the regulations that are currently in effect](#), visit the Secretary of State's website.