



Summary of Phase III Guidance for Pools

Updated December 21, 2020

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, effective July 1, 2020, include:

- Both indoor and outdoor facilities can have 25% of the facility's normal capacity, with a maximum of 125 people. For reference, normal facility capacity for indoor facilities is the occupancy limit established by the Rhode Island Office of the State Fire Marshal. Normal facility capacity for outdoor facilities is the occupancy limit established at the time of aquatic venue licensure. The facility includes the areas of the swimming pool, pool deck, restroom, changing rooms, etc.
- In addition to the facility's capacity, the number of people allowed in the swimming pool must be limited so that each person can maintain six feet from other people while in the pool.
- Lifeguards cannot be used to control physical distancing requirements. The facility must designate a non-lifeguard staff member to enforce physical distancing.
- Each facility must post signs indicating reduced capacity limits for pools and, if in use, spas.
- Spas 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.
- Anytime someone is near other people who don't live with them, they must wear a mask. 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.
- Each facility must post signs stating the capacity limit for the facility and for the pool. Signs must be posted at each entrance to the facility.
- 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.