



COVID-19 POOL OPENING GUIDELINES

On June 17, 2020, the San Mateo County Recreational Health Program received the updated [Health Officer's Order](#). The Health Officer's Order is now aligned with the California Shelter in Place Order. The California Department of Public Health has issued guidance related to pools. We have provided these resources on our web page at smchealth.org/eh. There is additional information about the reopening of businesses available on the [County's web page](#), including a number to call to reach the State. **Please be reminded that all spas must remain closed at this time.**

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER POSTING REQUIREMENTS

Businesses operating in San Mateo County must complete, post, and share the following documents with employees, vendors, and customers. Post the documents in a conspicuous place for patrons and law enforcement to easily view while your pool is in operation. Protect all documents from water damage by laminating or with a protective sleeve.

- [Self-Certification Placard](#) (list your local law enforcement agency in the department field of this document).
- Health Officer Order Appendix A: Social Distancing Protocol ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Tagalog](#)).
- Health and Safety Signage ([English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Chinese](#)).
- [Health and Safety Plan](#).

The documents below are provided for your convenience to keep your pool and the San Mateo County community safe. **You must adhere to the State Industry Guidance and the San Mateo County Health Order at all times while the pool is in operation.**

- [Health and Safety Guidelines for Public Swimming Pools](#) – a sample of the Health and Safety Plan. Add any additional protocols or modify it for your individual needs.
- [Attendance Record and Checklist](#) – not required, but highly recommended for record keeping during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Pool Service Company/Maintenance/Owner Checklist](#) – a safety check should be done by the pool owner or a pool professional prior to the pool opening for the season.



POOL SAFETY REMINDERS

- Pool owners (i.e., HOA, apartment and hotel management) are legally responsible for ensuring the pool's operation is compliant with the Health Order and State Industry Guidance and must actively manage the pool's operation.
- Gatherings are strongly discouraged.
- Minimum of 6-feet social distancing (mandatory, in and out of the pool). Staff, including lifeguards, swim coaches and instructors, must adhere to the social distancing protocols.
- Face coverings are mandatory when not in the pool. Face shields cannot be used in lieu of face coverings.
- Locker rooms cannot be occupied at this time.
- Restrooms, if open, must have rigorous cleaning and disinfection protocols.
- Equipment in the pool area, including deck furniture, must be cleaned and disinfected after use.

Important: Environmental Health Services is inspecting pools at this time but will leave if site conditions are unsafe for inspection staff. If this occurs, you may be charged a reinspection fee.

Please contact Ngai Wong at nwong@smcgov.org if you have any additional questions.