



**INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR POOL FACILITIES:  
HEALTH OFFICER'S ORDER  
MODERATE/ORANGE TIER  
(April 7, 2021)**

On July 28, 2020 the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance delegating enforcement of the Health Officer's Order to various agencies, which includes Environmental Health. Per the Board's directive, these agencies will conduct inspections to verify compliance with the Order. **Please note that violation of the Health Officer Order is subject to fines and other enforcement actions.** The Order includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:

**Outdoor pools are allowed to open. Outdoor spas/hot tubs are allowed to open. Indoor pools are allowed to open. Indoor spas closed except for therapy spas at licensed healthcare facilities.**

**1. Face Covering:**

- Employees, contractors, owners, and volunteers must wear a face covering.
- Employer must provide employees face coverings and other required personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Facility must take all reasonable steps to prohibit a person who is not wearing a face covering from entering or using the facility. A person can remove mask while in the pool or spa/hot tub or using showers but must wear mask at all other times.
- Approved face coverings must cover nose and mouth and not contain a valve. A face shield is an acceptable option for employees who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons. A facility operator can deny entrance or service to customers or users entering the facility without a mask or face shield, or require documentation of a physician's note for a mask exemption.

- 2. Workplace Specific Plan:** Appendices A and C-1 are no longer part of the Contra Costa County Health Officer's Order, but many of the requirements previously described in Appendices A and C-1 are in the State Health Officer's Order. Businesses and operations, including pool facilities, must comply with the State Order. Each business and operation must perform a comprehensive risk assessment of all works areas and work tasks and establish a written Workplace Specific Plan for COVID-19 prevention. Each business or facility must designate a person to implement the plan. Workers must be trained on the plan and a copy of the plan made available to workers. The plan must include the following:



- **Responsible person** - Person responsible for implementing the plan.
- **Control measures** - Risk assessment and the measures that will be taken to prevent the spread of the virus, specific to your business or operation (e.g., floor markings, signage, no customer self-serve, other social distancing measures, etc.), health screening of customers and employees, employees not coming to work if sick, regular disinfection of contact surfaces, etc.
- **Contact information** – Contact information for the Health Services Department for communicating information about COVID-19 outbreaks among workers or customers. In Contra Costa County you may contact: [Covid.Business.Tracing@cchealth.org](mailto:Covid.Business.Tracing@cchealth.org) or (925) 313-6740 (when prompted, press 5).
- **Face coverings** – Incorporate CDPH Face Covering Guidance and include a policy for handling exemptions.
- **Staff training** – Train staff on the plan and make plan available to staff.
- **Compliance checks** – Process to regularly evaluate the facility for compliance with the plan, and document and correct deficiencies identified.
- **COVID case investigation/response** - Protocols to respond to and investigate COVID cases.
- **Industry specific guidelines** – Protocols for compliance with industry-specific guidelines that apply to your business or operation.

Also complete the appropriate checklist for your type of operation and post in view of employees and customers.

For specifics related to your business or operation, see the applicable State COVID-19 Industry Guidance and checklist at <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>. The Contra Costa County FAQs also have relevant information: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/frequently-asked-questions>

Please note these guidance documents reference other documents that must be complied with. Multiple guidance documents may apply to your business or operation. Where there is a difference between documents, the stricter standard typically applies.

3. **Health Screening:** Provide temperature and/or symptom screenings for all workers at the beginning of their shift and any vendors, contractors, customers, guests, users, or other workers entering the establishment. Make sure the temperature/symptom screener avoids close contact with workers to the extent possible. If self-screening is used in lieu of screening at the facility, ensure that it is done before the person leaves home for the facility and follows CDC guidelines.
4. **Signage:** Post signage at each entrance and highly-visible locations and in reservation confirmations to remind the public
  - Use face coverings except while in the pool or spa/hot tub.
  - Practice social distancing.
  - Frequently wash hands with soap/water for at least 20 seconds.
  - Use hand sanitizer.
  - Not touch their face.



- Avoid entering the facility if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
5. **Rules Display:** Display a set of clearly visible rules for customers and employees at the entrance(s) that are a condition of entry. The rules must include:
    - Use hand sanitizer.
    - Maintain physical distance from other customers.
    - Avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces.
    - Contact information for local health department.
    - Changes to businesses services.
    - Avoid entering the facility if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
  6. **Social Distancing:** Implement and enforce social distancing (e.g., floor markings, signage, limit number of people inside the facility, etc.).
  7. **Spas/Hot Tubs:** Outdoor spas/hot tubs can be used subject to the following:
    - At least six feet must be maintained between spa/hot tub users unless the spa/hot tub is being used only by members of the same household.
    - Masks must be worn when not using the spa/hot tub.
    - Signage must be posted directing either six feet between users or restricting the spa/tub hot use to the same household.
    - Spa/hot tub must have a social distance monitor or a reservation system.
    - Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces between users (e.g., handrails).
    - Outdoor spa/hot tub can have a sunshade but all sides must be fully open.

Indoor spas/hot tubs are not allowed to be open.

8. **Maximum Pool Occupancy:** Limit occupancy of the pool so as to keep users from different households at least 6 feet apart.
9. **Social Distance Monitor or Reservation System:** The facility must provide at least one person, separate from a lifeguard, paid or unpaid, who shall be on duty at all times to ensure that the social distancing protocol applicable to the facility and all limitations herein are followed. The person performing this function may not be one of the swimmers in the pool or spa/hot tub.

Note: Outdoor pools and spas/hot tubs are only required to have a monitor when members of different households are using the pool or spa/hot tub at the same time. A monitor is NOT required when one individual is using the pool or spa/hot tub at a time, or when members of the same household are the only individuals in the pool or spa/hot tub at a time. This can be accomplished by implementing a reservation system.

10. **Cleaning/Disinfection:** High-contact surfaces must be disinfected regularly. High-touch surfaces such as handrails, faucets, toilets, doorknobs, and light switches must be frequently cleaned and disinfected. Use disinfect(s) that are EPA approved for Covid-19 (Coronavirus).



- 11. Cleaning Schedule:** Create and post a cleaning schedule in every open restroom facility. Post the cleaning schedule on the front of the door so visitors know when they can/cannot use the restroom.
- 12. Shower Rooms:** Only allow shower room use if partitions are in place or signs have been posted to specify physical distancing requirements. Note: Showers and restrooms are required per Pool Code unless readily available in a nearby living unit.
- 13. Slides and Water Attractions:** Outdoor recreation operators that have swimming pools which include water slides, water rides, or other water attractions must keep those areas closed until such operations can resume. Outdoor swimming pools themselves can remain open.
- 14. Deck Furniture:** Set up a system so that furniture and equipment (e.g., lounge chairs) that need to be cleaned and disinfected are kept separate from furniture that has already been cleaned and disinfected. Label containers for used equipment that has not yet been cleaned and disinfected and containers for cleaned and disinfected equipment.
- 15. Towels:** If towels are provided, launder them and clothing according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water temperature and dry items completely. Handle towels with disposable gloves and minimal disturbance, i.e., do not shake them.
- 16. Other Equipment:** Ensure that the facility has adequate equipment for patrons, such as kick boards, pool noodles, and other flotation devices, to minimize sharing wherever possible. Limit the use of the equipment to one patron at a time and clean and disinfect the items after each use.
- 17. Indoor Spas:** Indoor spas must close except for the following types:
  - Therapy spa at a licensed healthcare facility and used for therapy purposes.

For the Contra Costa County Health Officer's Order and FAQs go to:

<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/health-orders>

For the State's guidance documents go to: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>

To see the Contra Costa County Ordinance adopted for the enforcement of the Health Officer's Order go to: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/67807/Ordinance-2020-21>

Please note the Health Officer Order is regularly updated. The Health Officer Order includes references to the State Health Officer's Order and associated guidance documents. Where there are differences between these orders, the stricter standard shall apply.

