

April 19, 2020



Our monthly newsletter is weekly during COVID. If you're new here, Welcome! Newsletter archives are now available on our website.

Hello to a new week,

As a dual citizenship household, it's been interesting to watch the disparity between the United States and Canada on the matter of reopening post-COVID. Every single person seems to have their own personal opinion. What poolies can agree on: when swimming pools do reopen, operations will look very different.

Dr. Justin Sempsrott in his COVID conversation in the Facebook Group <u>Lifeguard Authority</u> last week <u>(recording posted on YouTube)</u> commented that we may be wearing masks in public for the next 12 - 18 months. Chew on that while some aquatic facilities try to reopen for a historically-significant (but arbitrary) date in the next few weeks....

While everyone else decides WHEN you reopen, I'm going to encourage you to focus on more constructive tasks. The following are policies or procedures that you've dreamed of implementing, but your boss was too scared because the customers might complain.

Good news: it's COVID's fault that we've had this hard reset to our world, and they honestly won't remember how things were at the pool back in February - please just let me in to swim! Now is a golden, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to implement change, streamline service and improve safety.

(FWIW: Switch your focus over to reopening only after the date/circumstances haven't changed for 7-10 consecutive business days. Trust me: we're still in the eye of the storm. Pools are non-essential in life and safety.)

Admission Standard & Ratio

How old do clients need to be use all or some of your facilities? How many youth can come together? Is this

consistent across facilities, i.e. from the pool to the weight room and beyond in a multiplex? How does this apply to hot amenities (steam room, sauna, hot tub/spa)?

Supervision Standard & Ratio

Children under the age of 7 are significantly more at risk of drowning. What age can children come to your facility unattended? What is the minimum age to supervise a child? How many children can one person supervise? Is supervision defined as "within arms reach?"

Swim Test

Do you have a swim test to determine the level of competency for different ages of children to use different bodies of water (dive tank, lazy river, wave pool) or amenities (diving board, rope, water slide, etc.)

Waivers & Informed Consent

Do clients sign a waiver of liability to use your aquatic facility or participate in programs (swimming lessons, aquafitness, etc.) ? Do parents/guardians of children under the age of 18 sign informed consent forms?

Photography Policy

Do you have a policy against the use of photography and video recording devices in change rooms and bathrooms? What about photo releases for photos taken during registered programs? Do you police photography at your facility at all? Should you? Consider the culture of your geographic area, and potential security risks to children.

Private Instruction Policy

If I showed up tomorrow to teach private clients at your pool, do you have a policy that prohibits private coaching or instruction at your facilities by non-staff? Parents are going to want private swimming lessons for the foreseeable future. If you don't have capacity, this will occur in your

public swim times.

I'm not suggesting are easy documents to develop and implement when you're already overworked (due to layoffs) and underpaid (due to budget cuts), but - if you can dedicate a few hours each week prior to reopening, you'll thank yourself later. Trust me!

-Katie Crysdale



CERTIFIED POOL OPERATOR (CPO) CLASS

ONLINE

MONDAY - THURSDAY APRIL 27 - 30, 2020 4 HOURS/DAY X 4 DAYS 3 - 7 PM EST || 1 - 5 PM MST







Last call for next week's (April 27-30) online Certified Pool Operator (CPO) class for guaranteed FedEx book delivery in North America.

Note: you receive the same Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (formerly National Swimming Pool Foundation) CPO certificate as an inperson class - it does't say "online." This meets most state/provincial accreditation requirements.

Our next class will be split over two weekends in late May.

Click for details

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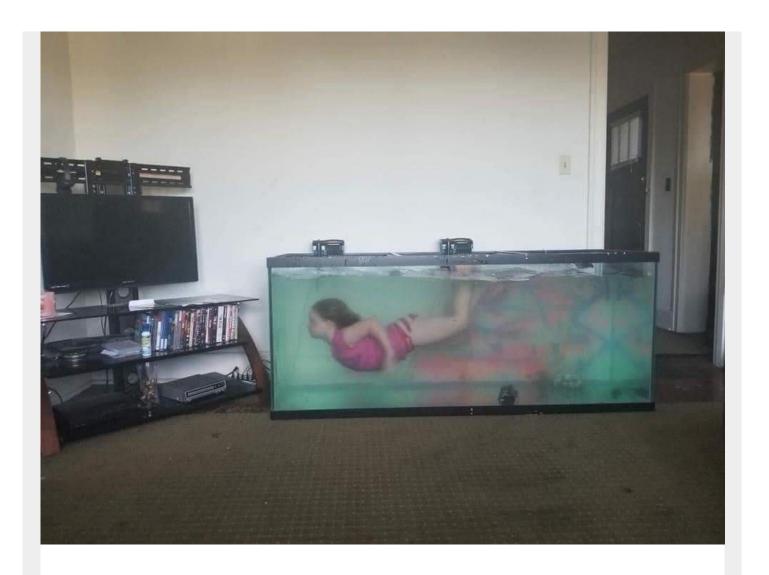
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