

Laguna Woods Village | Conditional Reopening of Aquatic Services at Pools 2, 4 and 5 Only
Effective: June 17, 2020 | Updated: August 1, 2020 | Expiration Date: TBD

BACKGROUND

On March 4, 2020, the governor of California declared a state of emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. Subsequently, on March 19, 2020, the governor issued Executive Order N-33-20, which ordered all state residents to stay in place and identified certain essential functions that could remain operational. Additionally, the order stated that individuals must adhere to strict social distancing guidance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, spas or water-play areas. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) of these facilities should inactivate the virus in the water.

On June 11, 2020, the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) released COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Campgrounds, RV Parks, and Outdoor Recreation, which includes guidance for swimming pools and aquatic venues that was implemented beginning on June 12, 2020. These guidelines are incorporated into this conditional reopening procedure and are to be adhered to in addition to key prevention practices that include:

- Physical distancing to the maximum extent possible and, at a minimum, activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised physical distancing measures defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart;
- Use of face coverings; and
- Frequent handwashing.

PURPOSE

Safeguarding our community is of utmost importance. It is imperative that our community self-enforce and strictly adhere to the restrictions mandated by the CDC, federal, state and local governments. This procedure is intended to reduce risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but is not a guarantee of your safety. Residents should use their own good judgment in determining the amount of risk of exposure in using any shared facilities or amenities. Risk of exposure involves many factors out of the control of the Village corporations and management, including the compliance (or noncompliance) and safe/unsafe behavior of others using the same facilities or amenities.

SCOPE

This procedure establishes formal guidelines for the conditional reopening of Laguna Woods Village Aquatic Services for swimming at Pool 2, Pool 4 and Pool 5, effective Saturday, August 1, 2020 (for residents only), with reservations being taken beginning on Friday, July 31, 2020, and operating the pools during the COVID-19 crisis in compliance with federal, state and county guidance, and other applicable rules and regulations.

The procedure reflects CDC advice that older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions might be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19. Based on what we know now, those at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people age 65 years and older. Activity should always be in line with the federal government’s advised physical distancing measures defined by the CDC as keeping 6 feet apart.

The Department of Recreation and Special Events is responsible for these activities; pool service is provided by Premier Aquatic Services.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Applicability

Aquatic services at Pools 2, 4 and 5 will reopen to Laguna Woods Village residents only. No guests or spectators are permitted at the pools.

Additional locations may be added by the Department of Recreation and Special Events once conformance with this procedure, as well as federal, state, county and other applicable safety requirements is evident.

2. Hours

a. Pool 2

7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sunday; opens at 9 a.m. on Wednesday morning due to weekly maintenance

b. Pool 4

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Sunday

c. Pool 5

7 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily; opens at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning due to weekly maintenance

3. Pool Usage

a. Pool 2 and Pool 5

Usage is limited to lap swimming and aquatic activities such as walking and aerobics. Per county guidance, aquatic venues should avoid activities that promote group gatherings.

- **One swimmer per lane, no exceptions**

b. Pool 4

This pool is considered the recreational leisure pool and is designed for those who want to sunbathe, conduct light water exercises and/or cool off.

4. Hot Pool

Hot pools will remain closed.

5. Facilities

Swimming pool locker rooms will remain closed.

6. Lifeguards

Lifeguards will actively lifeguard and ensure swimmers are social distanced when in the water. Lifeguards will not monitor handwashing and/or use of face coverings.

7. Monitoring of Health and Safety Protocols

The Department of Recreation and Special Events personnel will monitor handwashing, use of face coverings and/or social distancing on the pool deck.

8. Safety Requirements

a. Touch points

All touch points will be eliminated.

b. Social distancing

Activity should always be in line with the federal government's advised social distancing measures (defined by the CDC as keeping a minimum of 6 feet apart), both in and out of the water, including when arriving at and departing from the pool. Follow physical cues (lane lines in the water) and visual cues (tape on the decks, floors or sidewalks) and signs so that swimmers and staff stay at least 6 feet apart.

c. Face coverings

Face coverings must be worn in all areas until a swimmer enters the pool. Face coverings must also be worn when swimming is complete.

d. Hand washing

Use hand sanitizer provided at the pool entrance before entering the pool area. Individuals should wash hands frequently (for 20 seconds or longer) with soap and water or frequently use hand sanitizer.

e. Touching

Avoid touching your face. Wash your hands promptly if you have touched your eyes, nose or mouth. Individuals should refrain from shaking hands.

f. Cleaning equipment

Clean and disinfect your swim equipment, including noodles, caps, goggles, nose clips, snorkel, fins, water weights, paddle boards or other equipment.

g. Sharing equipment

Do not share any equipment, particularly those that are difficult to clean and disinfect or those that are meant to come in contact with the face (goggles, nose clips and snorkels).

h. Health

Do not swim if you are exhibiting any symptoms of the coronavirus: mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and difficulty breathing, or other symptoms identified by the CDC; have been in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days; or are a vulnerable individual. A vulnerable individual is an elderly individual and/or an individual with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

SWIMMING PROVISIONS

1. Scheduling Pools 2 and 5

Lap time will be scheduled in 45-minute increments with 15 minutes in between to ensure there are no congregations of individuals waiting to start swimming and to maintain social distancing at the pools both in the water and on the pool deck.

a. Pool 2 reservation times

- i. First reservation: 7 to 7:45 a.m.
- ii. Last reservation: 6 to 6:45 p.m. (Saturday and Sunday 8 to 8:45 p.m.)

b. Pool 5 reservation times

- i. First reservation: 7 to 7:45 a.m.
- ii. Last reservation: 8 to 8:45 p.m.

2. Scheduling of Pool 4

Reservations are scheduled for 1.5 hour increments with a capacity limit of 12 reservations per session. Couples residing in the same household are considered as one reservation and may sit together.

a. Pool 4 reservation times

- i. First reservation: 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- ii. Last reservation 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

3. Reservations

a. Advance reservations

Advance reservations are required. No walk-ins permitted. Make a reservation by emailing SwimReservations@vmsinc.org or by calling 949-597-4382.

b. Reservations

Reservations can be scheduled up to one day in advance between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Reservations for Saturday, Sunday and Monday can be scheduled the Friday prior.

Residents from the same household wanting to swim together in Pool 2 or Pool 5 will be issued lanes next to each other within the same call.

Scheduling may be adjusted by the Department of Recreation and Special Events as needed to satisfy safety and usage requirements.

c. A resident can make two reservations per week.

d. Resident identification number

Each resident must have his or her resident identification number available when calling to schedule reservation.

4. Swimmer Check-in

Swimmers must not arrive more than 10 minutes before reservation time and must adhere to social distancing requirements while queueing on the pool deck. Swimmers may be asked to show resident identification cards upon arrival. Staff will monitor pool use and resolve any problems as necessary.

5. On the Pool Deck

a. Social distancing

Swimmers must adhere to 6-foot social distancing, at a minimum, at all times in the water and on the pool deck.

b. Showering

It's recommended that swimmers shower before entering the pool using the outside showers.

6. Touch points eliminated

All touch points associated with the pools must be eliminated.

a. Gates

Gates must remain open during operating hours.

b. Drinking fountains

Drinking fountains will be turned off. Swimmers must bring their own water.

c. Furniture

Lounge furniture will be removed from the pool deck. All common-area chairs and tables will be removed at Pools 2 and 5.

d. GRF equipment/gear

Use of GRF swim equipment/gear (noodles, boards, water weights or other equipment) is prohibited.

7. Other swimmers' equipment/gear

Swimmers should not handle other swimmers' hats, towels, water bottles, noodles, caps, goggles, snorkels, fins, water weights, paddle boards or other equipment.

8. Restrooms

Swimmers are encouraged to use the lavatory prior to arriving at the pool. Restroom use is limited to Clubhouse 2, 4 and 5, which will be available for single use only. Swimmers must request a key from staff and wash hands with soap and water when entering and exiting the restroom. The key will be disinfected when it is returned to staff.

9. Locker Rooms

Use of locker room is prohibited.

10. End of Swim

Swimmers must proceed directly to their car/cart and leave the immediate area to avoid congregation on the pool deck or parking lot.