

Swimming Pool and Aquatic Centre Industry COVIDSafe Plan Frequently Asked Questions

These are provided to give examples and help clarify common questions regarding the plan. They should not be considered formal advice. Each pool venue is unique and for that reason operators who choose to opt into the Industry Plan, should read it carefully, review the checklist and put measures in place to meet the requirements. It will require a degree of interpretation and application based on your individual circumstance. In signing the compliance statement, you are saying you understand the intent of the plan to reopen pools safely and have implemented all relevant checklist items at your facility.

Q. How do I opt into the Industry approved plan?

A. You download the Swimming Pool and Aquatic Centre Industry COVIDSafe Plan, review it and determine if you want to opt in. If yes, you print the checklist from the plan – review and tick that you have appropriate measures in place or make a note of any adjustments/exceptions/Not applicable. Keep this printed copy on site and accessible. You also need to download and print the statement of compliance and the business owner/operator needs to sign and display this at your pool/venue.

Q. Our facility owner is not opening the facility we use for our activity. Can we force them to open so we can participate?

A. Facility owners need to undertake a review of the activities and operations. A facility is not required to open or opt in. You should talk to the owner about the timeframes for opening and conditions of access.

Q. I'm opting in and have completed the Industry Plan Checklist, where and how do I submit it?

A. There is no requirement to submit the checklist. You must keep a printed version of completed checklist on site and be able to produce this if/when asked. A printed and signed Statement of Compliance must be publicly displayed.

Q. Does this Industry plan apply to me as a single operator?

A. Yes, you can choose to opt into an Industry approved plan or operate with standard Stage appropriate restrictions. The Industry COVID Safe Plan will tell you what you need to do to be eligible. These plans have been developed by industry for the industry. You must complete the Statement of Compliance to ensure you meet the essential health requirements stated within the checklist to enable you to open with additional customers and provide a safe environment for your customers and staff.

Q. Do I need to collect patron details every time they visit?

A. If required, you need to be able to produce a precise list of who was in attendance on a specific date/time with contact details in order to contact trace in the event of a positive case for COVID. It is important you collect their details on arrival and note where they are. In the case of parents with babies or children for swimming lessons you need the parent

name as well as swimmer details. In the case of sites with multiple spaces you need to know if they were in the LTS pool, outdoor space, lap swimming, etc. In the case of Adult Lap swimming you don't need to if they are a regular customer or member and their contact details are in your system. However, you do need a system to record which lane they are in – this can be paper based and simple but needs to be kept for 56 days. You can use your database to help if it registers their visit by day and time when they arrive or swipe in, you will just need to be able to match that up to what they were doing and where.

Q. Do we need to ask screening questions at every visit?

A. Not necessarily, you should have clear and visible signs at points of check-in that ask patrons not to enter and advise staff if they meet any of the screening questions criteria.

Q. Are we required to provide a separate exit from the building?

A. If possible, this would be considered best practice. If it is not possible, to minimise patron overlap in high traffic areas you should ensure clear social distancing signage and put in place other measures such as floor markers to ensure one way traffic, barriers/separation ropes. Staggering start & finish times may be an effective technique to mitigate this where you are unable to have separate entry and exits.

Q What is a buffer zone?

A buffer zone is a defined space between adult and children patrons and/or between multiple groups of 20 adults. This space should reflect social distance requirements i.e. 1.5 metres. For example, a spare lane between adult and children lap swimmers, a marked off area in an learn to swim pool between a babies class (with adult carers in water) and other classes of children occurring concurrently.

Q How many spectators can I have on deck in an indoor pool?

This applies to adult patrons. The plan asks operators to discourage spectators of older swimmers and generally. It recognises that younger swimmers need carers nearby and suggest wherever practical that these are limited in number. To answer this question, first you need to calculate the capacity limit of the indoor space using the 1 per 4 sq metre rule of the entire indoor space not just the deck. Then you need to determine if that many adults could be spread out to meet social distancing rules. E.g. chairs or markers 1.5 metres apart. Please note that in applying the calculation you need to include adults in the pool e.g. if a baby class was occurring the adults in the class need to be counted along with those spectating on deck.

Q. Can shared equipment still be used?

A. Where possible, participants should bring their own equipment and minimise the use of shared equipment. Any shared equipment should be cleaned pre and post activity and participants should sanitise their hands.

Q. Do we need a buffer between LTS teacher in pool in lane 1 and school age kids swimming squad in lane 2?

A. Not necessarily. If the LTS class is being run by the teacher with children only, there would be no buffer required. If the LTS class had other adults in the class, i.e. a mums and bubs class, there would need to be a buffer zone between that class and any other groups including school age swimmers.

Q. I've been told that all patrons are required to shower at home before coming to lessons/squad. Is this correct?

A. The Industry Plan has no requirement for patrons of any age to shower at home prior to their lesson/swim. It is a requirement that they come ready to swim and go home straight after. The changerooms and showers at the venue/facility remain closed.

Q. Are we required to allow time between lessons for customer movement?

A. Dependent on venue size and entrance/exit locations. The aim is to minimise high-density traffic and comingling of adults in small areas.

Q. How many people can be in an Outdoor pool?

A. For outdoor pool use by adult patrons numbers per pool is determined by calculating the water surface area of the lanes being used. One person per 10 square meters is permitted. If you have a pool that is 10 meters wide and 25 metres in length = 250 square metres. 25 swimmers could be in the pool at any given time.

Q. Do lap swimmers need to social distance when in the pool?

A. Adult Lap swimmers should be given guidelines/direction on how to distance themselves during lap swimming and on return to the wall. Swimmers should be directed to line-up along the lane rope or wall after completion of a lap. There is no such requirement for children, however a buffer zone is needed between any children and adult patrons if using the facility concurrently.

Q. Do patrons need to social distance?

A. The 1.5-metre social distancing rule should apply to all adult patrons around the pool deck, entry and exit and change rooms. There is no such requirement for children (under age of 18) , however a buffer zone is needed between any children and adult patrons if using the facility concurrently.

Q. How many people can be in an indoor pool?

A. Capacity for indoor areas including pool halls is 1 person per 4 square metres of the total indoor space. For example, if you have a pool hall that is 19 metres long and 11 metres wide including the pool and viewing area, the total space is 209 meters squared, the maximum patrons in the pool or as spectators at any time would be 52.

Q. My venue has more than 1 pool how do I calculate capacity?

A. You would calculate the capacity based on each pool or dedicated space. For example, each separate pool would be calculated based on 1 adult for every 10 meters squared. Noting that school aged and younger have no limit on lane or pool. If mixing patrons in one pool, the capacity for adults (18 years and older) is calculated on 1 adult for each 10 meters squared of pool space and a buffer zone of 1.5m must be enforced between adult groups and school aged.

Q. Do capacity limits include staff or just patrons?

A. The capacity limits refer to patron numbers. Staff do not need to be included in capacity limits.

Q. Will we be able to utilise play pools, splash pads, slides, playground equipment, BBQ's and picnic tables etc?

A. All areas of a centre may be utilised provided patrons are following social and physical distancing requirements.

Q. Can sports clubs use the facility?

A. All patrons need to adhere to the Centre Management plan standards and capacity limits. Sports Clubs such as water polo, underwater hockey and others should refer to their club association for the restrictions/relaxations in place for their sport. Swimming restrictions are stated in the Swimming Pool & Aquatic Centre Industry Plan.

Q. We host swimming club nights for swimmers and families, can we still conduct these?

A. Once the restrictions are eased (Stage 3: 10 July 2020), then social gatherings such as these should be able to re-start within the guidelines outlined in the Checklist.

Q. The club BBQ/canteen service we provide brings much needed money into our organisation, so how can we get this going again?

A. Based on health advice, canteens associated with community sports clubs will not be able to open in Stage 1. Canteens are recommended to open with the return of community sport in Stage 2 from 1 June 2020.

Q. When we restart club based BBQs /food canteens can we still have volunteers help in the canteen?

A. Yes, just look after the wellbeing of these people by implementing things like maintaining a record of the people who work in the canteen, installing barriers to maintain physical distancing and having good hygiene and cleaning practices in place.

Pool Capacity Examples

Pool size is 8 lane 1.5m wide lane x 25m pool

- Lanes 1-4 school age swimming with no restriction on number per lane or group size
- Lane 5 is a buffer zone
- Lanes 6-8 adult patrons swimming, restricted to 11 patrons (3 x 1.5m x 25m = 112.5 metres squared)

Pool size is 10 lane 1.5m wide lane x 50m pool no bulkhead

- Lanes 1-4 school age swimming with no restriction on number per lane or group size
- Lane 5 is a buffer zone
- Lanes 6-10 adult patrons swimming, restricted to a max of 37 patrons. This means, these 37 must be split into 2 groups for contact tracing purposes and practice social distancing when static (i.e. different ends of the pool, lining up on the lane rope etc.).

Pool size is 10 lane 1.5m wide lane x 50m pool with a bulkhead to split into 2 x 25m pools

- End 1
 - Lanes 1-10 school age swimming with no restriction on number per lane or group size
- End 2
 - Lanes 1-3 -Learn to swim lessons in for children
 - Lane 4 Buffer zone
 - Lane 5- 10 adult patrons swimming, restricted to a max of 22 swimmers. This means, these 22 must be split into 2 groups for contact tracing purposes and practice social distancing when static (i.e. stopping and starting at different times; stopping/coaching from different ends of the pool, lining up on the lane rope etc.).

Indoor Pool Hall 21metres long by 12 mtrs wide. Pool is 18 metres Long by 10 wide

- Capacity – Total capacity for Adults is 63 (21x12 /4) Total capacity for adults in the water is 18 (18x10/10)
- If only children in the pool you can have up to 63 adults on the sidelines if they are always 1.5 metres from each other and it does not exceed the capacity. Groups of 20 rules apply with buffer zones required.
- If adults are in the water e.g. in a baby's class and/or an aqua class, these patrons need to be included in the capacity count. Noting buffer zones must be in place between adults and any children in other lessons in the water. This means, if there are 20 adults in total in the water, the maximum allowed on sidelines would be 43, with groups of 20 rules applied and buffer zones in place.