



**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER No. 2020-24**

**DIRECTIVE OF THE HEALTH OFFICER OF  
THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REGARDING REQUIRED BEST  
PRACTICES FOR OUTDOOR SWIMMING POOLS**

**(PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTIVE)**  
DATE OF DIRECTIVE: September 1, 2020

By this Directive, the Health Officer of the City and County of San Francisco (the “Health Officer”) issues industry-specific direction for the use and operation of outdoor swimming pools. This Directive constitutes industry-specific guidance as provided under Section 4 of Health Officer Order No. C19-07h issued on September 1, 2020 (the “Stay-Safer-At-Home Order”) and, unless otherwise defined below, initially capitalized terms used in this Directive have the same meaning given them in that order. This Directive goes into effect on September 1, 2020, and remains in effect until suspended, superseded, or amended by the Health Officer. This Directive has support in the bases and justifications set forth in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. As further provided below, this Directive automatically incorporates any revisions to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order or other future orders issued by the Health Officer that supersede that order or reference this Directive. This Directive is intended to promote best practices as to Social Distancing Requirements and sanitation measures, helping prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard the health of workers, customers, and the community.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE  
SECTIONS 101040, 101085, AND 120175, THE HEALTH OFFICER DIRECTS AS  
FOLLOWS:**

1. This Directive applies to:
  - a) All people engaged in outdoor swimming (“Swimmers”) in the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”); and
  - b) All owners, operators, managers, and supervisors of any public or private swimming facility in the City that are Outdoor Businesses permitted to be open to the public under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order (the “Facility”).
2. Attached as Exhibit A to this Directive is a list of best practices that apply to Swimmers and Facilities (the “Best Practices”). Each Swimmer and Facility must comply with all of the relevant requirements listed in the Best Practices.
3. Before beginning to offer outdoor swimming services, each Facility must create, adopt, and implement a written health and safety plan (a “Health and Safety Plan”). The Health and Safety Plan must be substantially in the form attached to this Directive as Exhibit B.
4. If an aspect, service, act or operation of a Facility or Swimmer is also covered by another Health Officer directive (all of which are available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>), then the Facility or Swimmer must comply with all applicable directives, and must complete all relevant Health and Safety Plan forms.



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- 5. Each Facility must (a) post its Health and Safety Plan at the entrance or another prominent location of every physical location that the Facility operates within the City, (b) provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan to Personnel, and (c) make the Health and Safety Plan available to members of the public on request. Also, each Facility must provide a copy of the Health and Safety Plan and evidence of its implementation to any authority enforcing this Order upon demand.**
- 6. Each Facility subject to this Directive may be required to provide items such as Face Coverings (as provided in Health Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to that order), hand sanitizer or handwashing stations, or both, and disinfectant and related supplies to Personnel, all as required by the Best Practices. If any such Facility is unable to provide these required items or otherwise fails to comply with required Best Practices or fails to abide by its Health and Safety Plan, then it must cease operating until it can fully comply and demonstrate its strict compliance. Further, as to any non-compliant Facility, any such Facility is subject to immediate closure and the fines and other legal remedies described below, as a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.**
- 7. For purposes of this Directive, “Personnel” includes all of the following people who provide goods or services associated with the Facility in the City: employees; contractors and sub-contractors (such as those who sell goods or perform services onsite or who deliver goods for the business); vendors who are permitted to sell goods onsite (such as farmers or others who sell at stalls in farmers’ markets); volunteers; and other individuals who regularly provide services onsite at the request of the Facility. “Personnel” includes “gig workers” who perform work via the business’s app or other online interface, if any.**
- 8. This Directive and the attached Best Practices may be revised by the Health Officer, through revision of this Directive or another future directive or order, as conditions relating to COVID-19 require, in the discretion of the Health Officer. Each Facility must stay updated regarding any changes to the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and this Directive by checking the Department of Public Health website (<http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders> and <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>) regularly.**
- 9. Implementation of this Directive augments—but does not limit—the obligations of each Facility under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order including, but not limited to, the obligation to prepare, post, and implement a Social Distancing Protocol under Section 4.d and Appendix A of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. The Facility must follow these industry-specific Best Practices and update them as necessary for the duration of this Directive, including, without limitation, as this Directive is amended or extended in writing by the Health Officer and consistent with any extension of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, any other order that supersedes that order, and any Health Officer order that references this Directive.**

**This Directive is issued in furtherance of the purposes of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Where a conflict exists between this Directive and any state, local, or federal public health order related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, without limitation, the Social Distancing Protocol, the most restrictive provision controls unless otherwise specifically provided. Where a conflict exists between any provision of this Directive and a health and safety plan approved by the Health Officer or the Health Officer’s designee for a professional tournament or exhibition, the approved health and safety plan controls unless**



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**otherwise specifically provided. Failure to carry out this Directive is a violation of the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, constitutes an imminent threat and menace to public health, constitutes a public nuisance, and is a misdemeanor punishable by fine, imprisonment, or both.**

*Tomás Aragón*

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Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH,  
Health Officer of the  
City and County of San Francisco

Date: September 1, 2020



**Exhibit A to Health Officer Directive No. 2020-24 (issued 9/1/2020)**

**Best Practices for Outdoor Swimming Facilities**

**In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the Social Distancing Protocol required by Section 4.d and Appendix A of Health Officer Order No. C19-07h (the “Social Distancing Protocol”), each Facility (public and private) that operates in the City must comply with each requirement listed below and prepare a Health and Safety Plan substantially in the format of Exhibit B, below.**

**Requirements:**

**1. Section 1 – General Facility Operations:**

- 1.1.** Ensure that the following aspects of Facility premises are shut down and not accessible by Swimmers or the public: clubhouses, restaurants, bars, dining areas, water fountains, seating or lounge areas, common areas not required to reach outdoor facilities or indoor bathrooms, fitness facilities, indoor shower facilities, locker areas, changing areas, and retail space, unless specifically allowed under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and any directives or guidance issued by the Health Officer.
- 1.2.** If an aspect of Facility premises is allowed to operate under another directive (for example, a pro-shop or retail space may or may not currently qualify as Retail Business with Curbside Pickup under Directive No. 2020-10 or a Retail Good Provider under Directive No. 2020-17), then the Facility must comply with all applicable directives, and its Health and Safety Plan must include all applicable components from those directives. Copies of other directives are available online at <https://www.sfdph.org/directives>.

**2. Section 2 – Sanitation Exemptions for Public Facilities:**

- 2.1.** Private Facilities are required to implement all applicable sanitation requirements of the Social Distancing Protocol.
- 2.2.** Public Facilities are required to implement all applicable sanitation requirements of the Social Distancing Protocol with the following exceptions:
  - 2.2.1.** If it is not feasible for a public Facility to provide hand sanitizer or a handwashing station to Swimmers in accordance the Social Distancing Protocol, public Facilities must require Swimmers to bring their own hand sanitizer.
  - 2.2.2.** If it is not feasible for a public Facility to continuously disinfect shared or high-touch surfaces and devices as required by the Social Distancing Protocol, then the public Facility must post signage requiring Swimmers to bring their own hand sanitizer to use after touching high-touch surfaces like gates.
  - 2.2.3.** Except with respect to bathrooms, public Facilities are not required to clean and decontaminate premises in accordance with Sections 2.15 and 2.17 of the Social Distancing Protocol, but are strongly encouraged to clean and disinfect premises to the maximum extent feasible.



- 2.2.4.** Public Facilities are not required to clean and decontaminate premises in accordance with Section 2.21 of the Social Distancing Protocol, but are strongly encouraged to clean and disinfect premises to the maximum extent feasible.

**3. Section 3 – Outdoor Swimming Pool Facilities:**

- 3.1.** All outdoor shared (i.e. public) swimming pools (including, without limitation, hot tubs and wading pools) are allowed to operate, in accordance with these requirements. These pools include, but are not limited to, outdoor swimming pools that are part of community centers, athletic clubs, multi-unit residential complexes, membership organizations, and schools.
- 3.2.** All indoor swimming pools/hot tubs must remain closed at this time (except for pools that are part of a health care operation and personal household pools).
- 3.3.** Swimmers must practice – and Facilities with onsite personnel must enforce – all social distancing requirements in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order and applicable directives, all Face Covering requirements as set forth in Health Order No. C19-12c issued on July 22, 2020, and any future amendment to those orders or directives. For clarity, Face Coverings are not required while swimming.
- 3.4.** Facilities must conduct all business and transactions involving Swimmers and members of the public in outdoor spaces in accordance with the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- 3.5.** Swimmers must remain outdoors at all times, but may enter a building to access an outdoor pool area or to use a restroom.
- 3.6.** When feasible, all Pool Facilities except unstaffed residential pools must have at least one person (separate from lifeguards) on duty at all times to ensure that the facility’s social distancing protocol and all measures in this Directive are followed.
- 3.7.** Create a sign-up/reservation system to stagger use by separate Households and ensure that measures to maintain social distance are maintained.
- 3.8.** Lap swimming must be limited to one swimmer per lane, except that members of the same Household may occupy a single lane.
- 3.9.** Use of shared swimming areas must be limited to no more than two swimmers per 300 square feet of shared pool space (unless all swimmers in the shared space are from the same Household. Calculate the total square footage of shared pool space and divide by 300 to determine the maximum number of swimmers allowed in that area.
- 3.9.1.** Example: If a swimming pool has 1,500 square feet of shared pool space, it may have a maximum of 10 swimmers in the shared pool space at one time, unless all swimmers are from the same Household (in which case there is no limit). But if three members of one Household are in the shared pool space, the normal space limits still apply, and only 7 additional swimmers are allowed in the shared pool space.
- 3.10.** Swimmers must remain at least six feet apart at all times from anyone who is not part of their Household (except for emergencies).



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- 3.11.** All gatherings outside the pool (such as on pool decks) are prohibited unless those gathering strictly comply with all Small Outdoor Gathering requirements under Health Officer Directive 2020-19.
- 3.12.** Limit hot tubs and small wading pools under 300 square feet to use by one person or Household at a time.
- 3.13.** Except if part of a summer camp or child care program authorized under Health Officer Directives 2020-13 and 2020-14, swim lessons are limited to one instructor and one Household at a time, and instructors must maintain six-feet of social distance from swimmers. Swim lessons are not allowed if they require physical contact. No tournament style events, competitions, group instruction, or clinics, except for any professional tournaments without spectators that may be allowed in the future under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order. Swimmers who are attending summer camps for children are authorized to use outdoor pools in accordance with this Directive to the extent the summer camp is allowed under a separate directive.
- 3.14.** Remove or prohibit use of tables, chair, loungers, and other furniture that can encourage poolside gathering. If it is not feasible to remove or prohibit the use of shared furniture, Pool Facilities must either (1) thoroughly clean and disinfect all shared furniture between use or, (2) provide convenient access to effective disinfecting products so that Swimmers or other guests may disinfect shared furniture before use. No sharing of unlaundered towels or un-sanitized pool equipment is allowed between pool users from different Households.
- 3.15.** Conspicuously post signage informing swimmers of these requirements. Signage must clearly state the square footage of any pools on the premises and the maximum number of Swimmers permitted in pool under this Directive.
- 3.16.** In addition to the requirements of this Directive, Pool Facilities must implement and enforce any additional or more restrictive guidance regarding outdoor pools provided by the Centers for Disease Control and found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>.) Nothing in this paragraph allows a Swimmer or Facility to replace, supplement, or change any restriction in the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order, this Directive, or any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19 with a less restrictive measure. For clarity, all Swimmers and Facilities must strictly implement every measure in this Directive and should only supplement new or different safety measures to the extent they are more restrictive (i.e., more protective of public health) than any local, state, or federal health order or guidance related to COVID-19.

### Health Officer Directive No. 2020-24 (Exhibit B) Health and Safety Plan (issued 9/1/2020)

Each Facility must complete, post onsite, and follow this Health and Safety Plan.

Check off all items below that apply and list other required information.

*Business/Entity name:*

*Contact name:*

*Facility Address:*

*Contact telephone:*

*(You may contact the person listed above with any questions or comments about this plan.)*

- Business is familiar with and complies with all requirements set forth in Health Officer Directive No. 2020-24, available at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>.
- Shut down clubhouses, restaurants, bars, dining areas, drinking fountains, seating or lounge areas, common areas not required to reach outdoor facilities, fitness facilities, indoor shower facilities, locker areas, changing areas, and retail space. Indoor spaces may be used to access indoor bathrooms.
- No sharing equipment outside of the household unless laundered or disinfected between uses. No equipment rental is permitted unless the Facility meets all the requirements for equipment rental under the Stay-Safer-At-Home Order.
- Conduct all interactions in outdoor spaces.
- Where possible, clearly mark designated paths of travel within the facility to help everyone maintain social distance.
- Require Swimmers to bring water because fountains and drinking stations will be closed.
- No tournament style event, competitions, group instruction, or clinics.
- Only outdoor pool facilities may operate. Swimmers must remain outside and can only enter indoor premises to access an outdoor swimming area or use the bathroom.
- If possible, have at least one person (separate from lifeguards) on duty to ensure that social distancing requirements and this Health and Safety Plan are followed.
- Only one swimmer per lane (unless members of the same household). Only two swimmers per 300 square feet of shared pool/hot tub/wading pool space (unless all swimmers in the space are from the same household). Swimmers from different households must remain at least six feet apart.
- Unless otherwise permitted, prohibit all gathering outside the pool.
- Post signage informing swimmers of these requirements. Signage must include the square footage of any pools on the premises as well as the maximum number of swimmers permitted in each pool.
- Remove or prohibit use of tables, chair, loungers, etc. that can encourage poolside gathering. If removal is not feasible, thoroughly clean and disinfect all furniture between uses or provide convenient disinfectant materials for swimmers to use. No sharing of towels or pool equipment between pool users from different households.