

MCR
AQUATICS
2020

SUMMARY

THIS DOCUMENT SERVES AS THE INITIAL RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PHASED REOPENING OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION AQUATIC FACILITIES. IT SEEKS TO ENSURE THE SAFE OPENING OF OUR FACILITIES TO OUR COMMUNITY WHILE MEETING THE GUIDELINES OF THE CDC, STATE AND COUNTY.

THE UNIQUE NATURE OF OUR AQUATIC OPERATIONS IS ADDRESSED IN THIS DOCUMENT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT REAL WORLD FACTORS WILL INFLUENCE IMPLEMENTATION. THROUGH THIS OPERATIONAL OUTLINE WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN SAFELY SERVE OUR COMMUNITY, WHILE MAINTAINING STAFF SAFETY. CRITICAL OPERATIONAL ITEMS ARE HIGHLIGHTED AS FOLLOWS:

- POOLS WILL REQUIRE TRAINING PRIOR TO REOPENING
- INITIALLY LIMITING HOURS OF FACILITIES TO PRE-RESERVED SESSIONS
- SCHEDULING STAFF TO LIMIT HOW MANY ARE IN WORK STATUS AT ONE TIME AND HOW MANY SHIFTS ARE IN EACH DAY
- CLEANING AND DISINFECTING THE FACILITIES REGULARLY THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND AT ITS END

THE INITIAL OPENING IS THE MOST CRITICAL PHASE IN SETTING UP OUR POOLS FOR OPERATIONAL SUCCESS NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE. BEYOND THE INITIAL OPENING OF OUR FACILITIES, WE HAVE INCLUDED AN ADDITIONAL TWO PHASES OF OPENING GUIDANCE. THIS REOPENING IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS WILL ENSURE WE FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, TO INCLUDE ADVISING OUR USERS REGARDING PROTOCOLS, CONDITIONS, AND IMMEDIATE STEPS WE ARE TAKING TO AVOID ANY REBOUNDS OR OUTBREAKS OF COVID-19, WHILE MEETING THE GUIDELINES OF THE CDC, STATE, AND COUNTY.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT OUR AQUATIC FACILITIES AND STAFF ARE UNIQUE WITHIN MONTGOMERY COUNTY RECREATION BEING RESPONSIBLE FOR LIFE SAFETY ACTIVITIES. OUR STAFF IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO UNDERSTAND THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION THROUGH THEIR THOROUGH AND CONSISTENT TRAINING IN LIFESAVING TECHNIQUES. THEY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) TO KEEP THEMSELVES SAFE. THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT NOW THAN EVER.

PHASED OPENING PLAN

PHASE "OPENING"

• PRE-CONDITIONS/BENCHMARKS

- PATRON CAPACITIES WILL BE COMMENSURATE WITH STATE, COUNTY GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT SOCIAL DISTANCING
- ADJUSTMENT TO THE MANDATORY MASK REQUIREMENT
 - PATRONS CANNOT BE IN THE WATER WITH A MASK
- ADEQUATE STAFFING OF TEAM MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY LIFEGUARDS
- STAFF HEALTHY VERIFICATION – COUNTY GUIDELINES
- ADEQUATE SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT HEALTH HYGIENE FOR FACILITIES
- ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF RESPECTIVE PPE FOR STAFF
- QUANTITIES SHOULD BE COMPARED TO PATRON LOADS

• USAGE RECOMMENDATION

- STAFFING WILL BE LIMITED DAILY
- ALL SWIMMING WILL BE SESSION BASED
 - ALL PATRONS MUST BE COUNTY RESIDENTS OR POSSESS A PASS
- ALL SPAS, SAUNAS AND FITNESS ROOMS CLOSED
- LAP SWIMMING (ONE PERSON PER LANE) AND PROGRAMMED WATER FITNESS CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE - WITH LIMITED NUMBERS
- RECREATIONAL SWIMMING WILL BE AVAILABLE DEPENDING ON STATE/COUNTY GUIDELINES AND OUR ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY MANAGE SOCIAL DISTANCING
- NOT ALL AREAS OF THE POOLS MAY BE AVAILABLE. ALL WADING POOLS, CROSSING FEATURES, SPLASH PADS OR WATER FEATURES WILL BE CLOSED. DIVING BOARDS AND SLIDES MAY BE OPEN WITH SD.
- COMMON AREAS AND LOBBIES WILL BE CLOSED AND WILL ONLY BE USED AS THROUGHFARES TO HELP ELIMINATE ANY AND ALL CONGESTION OR GATHERINGS TO REMAIN IN COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING COMPLIANCE PER CDC RECOMMENDATION.
- ALTERNATIVE EXITS WILL BE UTILIZED IN FACILITIES IT IS SAFE TO DO SO.
- MASKS WILL BE WORN BY PATRONS WHEN USING COMMUNAL AREAS.
- STAFF WILL WEAR MASKS WHEN NOT PERFORMING SURVEILLANCE DUTIES.
- SWIM TEAMS ALLOWED TO RESUME PRACTICE FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING AND USA SWIMMING GUIDELINES
 - MAXIMUM OF ONE PER LANE

INITIAL REOPENING TIMELINE

INDOOR/OUTDOOR POOLS

- WILL NEED AT LEAST 4 HOURS TRAINING HOURS
- TIME TO EDUCATE PATRONS ON TIMES AND PROCESSES

STAFFING

SCHEDULES

- STAFF WILL BE SCHEDULED IN ORDER TO HAVE MINIMAL STAFF AT THE FACILITY AT ONE TIME AND DURING THE COURSE OF A DAY

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- DAILY MEETINGS WITH STAFF TO GO OVER SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND EXPECTATIONS
- ALL MEETINGS WITH STAFF WILL BE HELD TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION SOCIAL DISTANCING AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT PROTOCOLS
- ALL STAFF WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE IN PPE AT ALL TIMES AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING, AS POSSIBLE
 - MINIMUM PPE FOR LIFEGUARDS ON DUTY IS A MASK, WHEN NOT ON SURVEILLANCE DUTY
 - MINIMUM PPE FOR ALL NON-LIFEGUARDING STAFF, INCLUDING MANAGERS/OPERATORS IS A MASK
 - OUTDOOR POOL CASHIERS MUST WEAR A MASK WHEN WORKING WITH ANOTHER STAFF MEMBER

LIFEGUARD ROTATIONS WILL BE ADJUSTED TO LIMITED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SHARING SINGLE GUARD CHAIR.

- LIFEGUARD CHAIRS WILL BE SANITIZED IN BETWEEN SESSIONS. LIFEGUARD STAFF WILL HAVE OPTION TO SANITIZE BEFORE SITTING.
- STAFF WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO SIT ON PERSONAL TOWEL WHILE IN CHAIR.
- LIFEGUARDS WILL FOLLOW RED CROSS GUIDELINES ON CHANGING POSITION AND MAINTAINING ACTIVE SCANNING WHILE IN THEIR STATION
- SHOULD GUARDS NEED TO COME DOWN FROM THE STAND, IN CHANGING POSITION, PROPER COVERAGE MUST BE MAINTAINED, WHICH MAY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL LIFEGUARDS
- LIFEGUARD STANDS WILL BE DISINFECTED INBETWEEN SESSIONS

- ALL STAFF WILL BE ASSIGNED EQUIPMENT/SUPPLIES FOR THEIR DAILY USE
 - INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, RESCUE TUBES AND FANNY PACKS,
 - EQUIPMENT WILL BE SANITIZED AT THE END OF EACH DAY IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT DAY OF OPERATION
 - EQUIPMENT WILL BE SANITIZED AT THE END OF EACH SHIFT FOR THOSE FACILITIES WITH MULTIPLE STAFF SHIFTS IN A SINGLE DAY
- ONLY THREE STAFF WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE STAFF ONLY AREA AT ONE TIME AND MUST MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING
 - ONLY WHEN PERFORMING NECESSARY DUTIES SHOULD EXTRA STAFF BE PERMITTED AT ONE TIME
- SOCIAL DISTANCING MARKERS PLACED AROUND GUARD STATIONS
 - CURRENTLY THIS WOULD BE SIX (6) FEET IN ANY DIRECTION ON THE DECK
- STAFF WILL BE NEED TO STAY AT HOME IF SICK, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS

- RESUMING FACILITY INSERVICE TRAININGS
- FACILITY INSERVICE TRAININGS WILL BE RESUMED WITH A FOCUS ON TRAINING SKILLS MOST RELEVANT TO SERVING THE PUBLIC DURING COVID- 19
- FACILITY INSERVICE TRAININGS WILL USE SOCIAL DISTANCING AS POSSIBLE,
- HOWEVER, THERE ARE CRITICAL LIFE SAVING/SAFETY ELEMENTS OF LIFEGUARD TRAINING WHICH REQUIRE CLOSE CONTACT
- WE WILL FOLLOW AMERICAN RED CROSS TRAINING MODIFICATIONS DEVELOPED TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING I.E. 1:1 STUDENT TO MANIKIN\TRAINING AIDS MODEL
- STAFF WILL BE PROVIDED CDC BASED GUIDELINES TO RECOGNIZE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS (APPENDIX C) AND HOW TO RESPOND IF THEY DETECT OR EXHIBIT SYMPTOMS IN THEMSELVES OR OTHERS

IN-SERVICE – SEE OUTLINE

FACILITY USAGE GUIDELINES

CAPACITIES

- POOL CAPACITIES WILL BE DETERMINED BASED ON SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES FROM OUR REGULATING BODIES AS WELL AS INTERNALLY
- FACILITIES SHOULD SPACE DECK FURNITURE WHICH WILL DECREASE THE USABLE SPACE OF A FACILITY PER SOCIAL DISTANCING

PATRON USAGE GUIDELINES

- ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR USAGE OF THE POOLS REMAIN THE SAME UNLESS SPECIFIED IN THIS DOCUMENT
- FACE COVERINGS WILL BE USED BY PATRONS AT ALL TIMES WHEN NOT IN THE WATER OR IT DOESN'T PRESENT A SAFETY HAZARD
 - WILL FOLLOW CDC AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES ON WHEN MASKS ARE NO LONGER NECESSARY
 - PER CDC GUIDELINES, THE MASK REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO THOSE UNDER TWO (2) YEARS OLD.
- LAP SWIM USAGE WILL BE LIMITED TO ONE PER LANE
- RECREATION/GENERAL SWIMMING WILL BE ALLOWED PER SOCIAL DISTANCING AND GATHERING ALLOWANCES
 - WILL DIFFER PER FACILITY AS IS NORMALLY BASED ON SQUARE FOOTAGE
 - SPECIFIC SESSIONS TO BE DETERMINED
- USE OF FACILITY EQUIPMENT WILL BE LIMITED
- LOCKER ROOMS, LOCKERS, AND RESTROOMS WILL HAVE A DETERMINED MAX CAPACITY AND USAGE, DEPENDENT UPON THE FACILITY SIZE AND SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
- LOBBIES SHOULD NO LONGER BE AREAS OF CONGREGATION
- PATRONS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THEIR ACTIVITY AND THEN LEAVE THE FACILITY
- A FIFTEEN (15) MINUTE NOTIFICATION WILL BE GIVEN TO SIGNIFY THE COMING END OF EACH SESSION OR THE DAY
- NON-USERS AND NON-PARTICIPANTS ARE DISCOURAGED FROM ENTRY OR REMAINING IN THE FACILITY, INCLUDING THOSE BRINGING A USER OR PARTICIPANT
- PATRONS MUST VACATE THE FACILITY WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) MINUTES OF THE END OF THEIR SCHEDULED SESSION OR FINISHING THEIR ACTIVITY

FACILITY LAYOUT

- SOCIAL DISTANCING, OR OTHER GUIDELINES, MAY DETERMINE CERTAIN AREAS OF THE FACILITY INOPERABLE
- FACILITIES WILL BE SET UP TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING
 - DISTANCE MARKERS WILL BE PLACED THROUGHOUT THE FACILITY AS APPROPRIATE
- REMOVAL OF LOBBY CHAIRS, TABLES OR OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE INTENDED FOR USE BY THOSE NOT IN PROGRAMMING
- ANY DECK FURNITURE WILL BE REMOVED/SPACED BUT MAY BE REQUESTED

FACILITY SYSTEMS/STRUCTURES PROTOCOLS

- INCREASE INTRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION OF OUTDOOR AIR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BY OPENING WINDOWS AND DOORS, USING FANS, OR OTHER METHODS

ROLE OF PARK POLICE

- WILL NEED PARK POLICE SUPPORT AS IN THE PAST ON WEEKEND DAYS, AND HOLIDAYS, AT OUTDOOR POOLS

FACILITY CLEANING PRACTICES

GENERAL STRUCTURE FOR CLEANING

- CLEANING AND DISINFECTION DEFINITIONS PER CDC
- CLEANING REMOVES GERMS, DIRT, AND IMPURITIES FROM SURFACES OR OBJECTS. CLEANING WORKS BY USING SOAP (OR DETERGENT) AND WATER TO PHYSICALLY REMOVE GERMS FROM SURFACES. THIS PROCESS DOES NOT NECESSARILY KILL GERMS, BUT BY REMOVING THEM, IT LOWERS THEIR NUMBERS AND THE RISK OF SPREADING INFECTION.
- DISINFECTING KILLS GERMS ON SURFACES OR OBJECTS. DISINFECTING WORKS BY USING CHEMICALS TO KILL GERMS ON SURFACES OR OBJECTS. THIS PROCESS DOES NOT NECESSARILY CLEAN DIRTY SURFACES OR REMOVE GERMS, BUT BY KILLING GERMS ON A SURFACE AFTER CLEANING, IT CAN FURTHER LOWER THE RISK OF SPREADING INFECTION.
- USE CDC GUIDANCE FOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING
- DAILY BETWEEN SESSIONS, HIGH TOUCH WILL BE CLEANED
- STAFF WILL FOLLOW REGULAR CLEANING PROCEDURES AT OUTDOOR POOLS

- INDOOR FACILITIES WILL BE CLEANED NIGHTLY BY CONTRACTOR

CLOSE OF EACH DAY

- ALL DAILY ASSIGNED STAFF EQUIPMENT WILL BE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED
- RINSING OF THE DECK WITH CHLORINATED POOL WATER TO CLEAN AND THEN DISINFECTING HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS
- INTERNAL STAFF ONLY AREAS, INCLUDING PUMP ROOM(S), MUST BE CLEANED AND DISINFECTED

NOTIFICATIONS AND SIGNAGE

REAL TIME COMMUNICATION

- WORK WITH COMMUNICATIONS TEAM PUT OUT INFORMATION ABOUT REOPENING
- MAKE SURE WE ARE RESPONSIVE AS THERE ARE CHANGES IN POLICIES
- EXTERNAL TO OUR ORGANIZATION, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY
- AS NEEDED, USE STAFF TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH PATRONS BY PHONE

SIGNAGE NEEDS : COVID SIGNS BEING PROVIDED BY COUNTY

FIRST AID & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

OVERALL PROTOCOL

- AS IS POSSIBLE, STAFF WILL PROVIDE ALL NON-EMERGENCY CARE IN OPEN AIR AN AREA OF THE FACILITY, MOST LIKELY THE FIRST AID ROOM, WILL BE DESIGNATED FOR ISOLATION AS NEEDED
- PROPER PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED EMERGENCIES
- REVIEW ALL FACILITY EAPs TO ENSURE CONSISTENCY WITH UPDATED RESPONSES

IN WATER RESCUES

- THERE ARE METHODS BEING RECOMMENDED, WHICH ARE NO LONGER CORE TRAINING ELEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFEGUARD TRAINING PROGRAM, AND WILL REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING/FOCUS WITH STAFF
 - I.E USE OF SHEPHERD'S CROOK TO PERFORM REACHING ASSISTS WITH EQUIPMENT, RING BUOY TO PERFORM THROWING ASSISTS THESE SKILLS ARE STILL TAUGHT BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN OTHER MODULES, WHICH WILL BE OUR FOUNDATION FOR TRAINING LIFEGUARDS ON THESE ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- BODY-TO-BODY RESCUES WILL ONLY BE USED FOR ACTIVE VICTIMS THAT ARE BEYOND THE REACH OF A SHEPHERD'S CROOK AND/OR RING BUOY AND FOR PASSIVE VICTIMS
- REAR APPROACH RESCUES WILL BE PRIMARILY USED FOR ACTIVE AND PASSIVE VICTIMS TO MINIMIZE FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT WITH VICTIM
 - THIS METHOD WILL BE A FOCUS OF INSERVICE TRAININGS
- ALL STAFF PERFORMING IN WATER RESCUES MUST PUT ON PROPER PPE ONCE OUT OF THE WATER PRIOR TO PROVIDING ANY CARE AS PER TRAINING (GLOVES, RESCITATION MASKS ETC).