

# RETURN TO SERVICE PROTOCOL AQUATIC CENTER/POOL (OPEN SWIM)



## PURPOSE

This Return to Service Protocol was formed from various recommendations, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Iowa Department of Public Health, National Recreation and Parks Association and other public health organizations, as mitigation efforts to help ensure the safety of our swimmers, spectators, and staff.

## NOTICE

**Attendees found in violation of the Protocols will be requested to leave the premises if violations continue after one verbal warning of violation and refunds will not be provided.**

The City of Des Moines cannot guarantee that the applicant or any attendees will not become infected with COVID-19. Applicant and attendees use the City's facility at their own risk.

The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change the Facility Use requirements at any time and will contact applicant immediately with such changes.

## OPTIONS FOR FULLY VACCINATED INDIVIDUALS

For the safety of our entire community, including our most vulnerable populations, including children and unvaccinated individuals, we strongly recommend our park patrons and facility users wear masks and social distance. Due to minimal risk of spreading COVID-19, current CDC guidance allows **fully vaccinated individuals** the option to resume normal activities, including not wearing a mask. The City strongly recommends all applicable individuals to get vaccinated.

## PROTECTING OUR PATRONS

### MASKS

- For the safety of our entire community, including our most vulnerable populations, including children and unvaccinated individuals, we will continue to wear our masks, face coverings and face shields, when we are unable to maintain a distance six feet or more. This includes at our customer service counter, rotating on the deck, and at the top of our slides.

### CLEANING

- Facilities will be cleaned continually throughout the day with added cleaning procedures in between scheduled programmed activities.

## PREVENT

### AVOID CROWDS

- For up to the minute attendance at each location click on our [Aquatic Facility Counter](#).
- The virus that causes COVID-19 most commonly spreads from person to person respiratory droplets during close physical contact (within 6 feet).
  - Individuals should consider if they can stay at least 6 feet apart from people they don't live with before visiting our facilities.

## PREVENT (continued)

### SCREEN

- Any person, who is experiencing [symptoms of coronavirus](#) (including both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals), or who has been in contact with anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the last 14 days, or who is awaiting COVID-19 test results or has been asked to quarantine will be prohibited from attending.
  - Per CDC guidance, If you have been exposed and are unvaccinated, even if you test negative for COVID-19 or feel healthy, you should stay home ([quarantine](#)) since symptoms may appear up to 14 days after exposure to the virus.
- If you are participating in one of our programs or utilizing our facility and test positive for COVID-19, you must immediately contact Austin Tasler at (515) 554-6628 or [abtasler@dmgov.org](mailto:abtasler@dmgov.org). To prevent the spread of COVID-19, we must be able to post notice of dates of public exposure for contact tracing purposes. No personal information will be shared.

### MASKS

- Per CDC guidance, masks are strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals when social distancing of six (6) feet or more cannot be maintained or in the presence of members outside of your household.
  - **CDC guidelines say to wear a mask when you are not in the water. This includes in our restrooms, to/from the aquatic center/pool facility and on the deck.**
  - Masks should NOT be worn if they become wet.
    - Please bring an extra mask in case your mask becomes wet.
  - Masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of two or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
  - Masks do not substitute for social distancing.

### SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Please follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines (of six feet or more) between different household units and accept personal responsibility for public health guidelines including on waterslides and diving boards, during lap swim, aqua fitness, special events, and in our facility parking lot.
- Any lines for check-in, restrooms, or other are also discouraged.

## PLAN AND PREPARE

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- 2021 Aquatic Season: June 5-August 15
- Admission: \$4 adults, \$2 children
- Children 12 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult or guardian age 16 years of age or older. All other aquatic safety rules still apply.
- Facility safety regulations apply to all areas, including parking lots.

### CAPACITY

Our facilities will operate at full capacity. Please see the above section on how to "[AVOID CROWDS](#)".

- Ashworth Pool Capacity: 750
- Birdland Pool: 700
- Nahas Pool: 850
- Northwest Aquatic Center: 700
- Teachout Aquatic Center: 700

## PLAN AND PREPARE (continued)

### RESTROOMS AND LOCKERS

- Please follow healthy swim practices and **arrive “swim” ready** (ex. shower and dress before coming to the facility).
- Please follow social distancing guidelines and maintain six feet or more between you and others outside of your household.

### HYGEINE

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom and before eating.
  - You are encouraged to bring your own hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) to use if soap and water are not readily available.
- Hand sanitizer stations will also be available at the facility.

### SEATING and TABLES

- Please maintain at least six feet of physical distance between each group (household unit) or individual attending alone, when seated.
- A limited number of lounge chairs and tables may be available. Tables and chairs are not disinfected between users. Visitors may bring their own chairs.

### FOOD/DRINK

- Food and beverage will be available for purchase at our concession stand.
  - Concession lines are discouraged. If there is a line, for the safety of our entire community, including our most vulnerable populations, including children and unvaccinated individuals, we strongly recommend you keep a distance of six feet or more and wear a mask.
  - The concession stand is operated by a contracted vendor operating under Iowa Department of Public Health requirements.
- Drinking fountains are shared use items and will be available to use at your own risk.
  - Guests may bring a bottle of water (no glass) clearly labeled with their name. Other outside food/beverage are not allowed.
- Distance yourself at least 6 feet or more away from people you do not live with before removing your mask to eat or drink.

### EQUIPMENT

- Tubes slides will be open and tubes are not disinfected between users.
- Swimmers should use their own personal equipment (goggles, nose clips, kickboards, etc.) as much as possible. Sharing personal equipment items is discouraged.

## RESOURCES/LINKS

American Red Cross Considerations for Aquatic Facilities and Lifeguarding

<https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/coronavirus-information/aquatic-facilities-operations-and-lifeguarding-during-covid-19>

CDC Aquatic Venues Safety Steps

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/Aquatic-Venues-COVID19-Safety-Steps-Poster.pdf>

CDC Considerations for Wearing Face Coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

CDC Coronavirus

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

CDC Guidance for Public Pools

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

City of Des Moines COVID Response Site

<https://www.dsm.city/covid19>

Polk County Public Health Department

<https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health-department/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>