

Anne Arundel County Pools (Aquatic Venues)

GUIDANCE – June 12, 2020

The following information is for County-licensed pools that have not yet opened for the 2020 season.

WATER MAINTENANCE

- Ensure that water is properly maintained to prevent the breeding of insects, such as mosquitoes. Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Mosquitoes are both a nuisance and a vector for disease. (COVID-19, however, is not spread by insects.)
- Mosquitoes will breed in a stagnant pool, even if the pool is covered. If a pool is to remain closed for the summer, it is strongly recommended that the pool NOT remain winterized. The water must, at a minimum, be circulated and chlorinated. Leaving a pool unmaintained for an entire year leaves it vulnerable to deterioration and damage. This will make opening in 2021 both more complicated and more expensive.

VENTILATION AND DEHUMIDIFICATION

- For indoor facilities, adequate ventilation and dehumidification must be maintained. Continue to circulate and chlorinate or brominate pools and spas. Monitor regularly and keep records. Water heaters should be turned off.

EMPTY POOLS: HAZARDS

- Do not drain and leave any pool empty for an extended period of time. Leaving a pool empty is hazardous due to hydrostatic pressure. This ground pressure can cause a pool to “pop” out of the ground, damaging the structure and circulation pipes. An empty pool can also collect rainwater, giving mosquitoes a place to breed.

CLOSED POOLS MONITORING AND NOTIFICATION

- Closed pools must be monitored. Water chemistry and circulation must be checked regularly and records should be kept of water tests and flow readings. Regular water chemistry requirements should be followed to keep equipment from corrosion and damage, in addition to preventing mosquitoes. Fences and barriers must be maintained in good condition and signs posted that the pool is closed.
- If for any reason a pool will not open for the 2020 season, it is not necessary to obtain an operating permit. The Department must be notified in writing that the owner does not intend to open the pool.

OPERATING PERMITS

- Indoor pools that operate year-round will have their operating permits (which expired April 30) extended for 30 days after the state of emergency ends. Indoor pools are authorized to open beginning June 19. The department is accepting operating permit applications submitted by mail. Annual inspections on indoor pools will be done as soon as possible.
- Outdoor seasonal pools must apply and pay for an operating permit prior to opening. We are currently accepting operating permit applications submitted by mail. Since seasonal pool permits are only good for six months, the Governor’s 30-day extension of permits that expire during the state of emergency does not apply. Inspections will be done at outdoor pools as soon as possible, preferably before the pool opens.

**Mail Address: Pool Program, Anne Arundel County Department of Health
3 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401**

**For more information, contact the
Department’s Commercial Pool Program
at hdlucy01@aacounty.org or 410-222-7217.**

Additional Information:

CDC Resources

- [Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19](#)
- [What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers](#)
- [What to do if you are sick with COVID-19](#)
- [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#)