

THE SAFE STEP

Your connection to protecting those who improve your community



POOL REOPENING ALERT

The Problem

Your pool and aquatic facilities have been closed for a prolonged time, what steps should you take to open them back up again.

It's been a while since you have used your indoor and/or outdoor aquatic facilities and now is the time you want to get them ready to go again. You cannot expect to start the facility up again right away and it may take several days or a week depending upon your procedures, but let's lay out what should be done. Hopefully your facility certified pool operator is checking the pool daily while the facility is still closed so that getting re-started should not be as difficult.

IMPORTANT FIRST STEPS: LIFEGUARD RE-ORIENTATION

One of the most important things to do prior to opening is to re-orient your lifeguards to your operations. They have been pre-occupied with other things while the facility was closed and may have forgotten protocols and procedures of the facility. Prior to them being assigned any shift, undergo a re-orientation as if they were new to the facility. This re-orientation should be checked off the same way any in-service training is completed, and they should pass a competency test both verbal and written to make sure they are comfortable with the location of equipment and protocols. Finally, it is suggested that all actions are documented.



The Solution

Complete the items below as you start getting your facility's aquatic operations back in order.

Suggested To DO



Check the pool chemistry. If your local/state code allowed you to reduce the ppm of chemicals in the pool water while the pool was unoccupied it now needs to be brought back up to typically maintained functioning levels.



Check the pool chemicals that were in storage to make certain that they are still usable. These chemicals in your storage area may have gotten contaminated during the closure of your operations and may not be as effective. If in doubt dispose of them properly.



Wash and disinfect the pool deck. This should include all areas of the pool deck including the showers in the locker rooms where members shower before entering the pool.



Make sure all lights are working on the pool deck to the appropriate lumens. Check with your local/state building codes to make certain that you meet the minimum requirements.



Check VGB drain covers to make certain that attached and functioning properly.



Check all safety equipment and that it is in usable condition. This would include things such as: lifeguard chairs, rescue tubes, first aid kit, AED (Make sure pads and batteries are in working condition), backboard, oxygen, etc.



Check the emergency button or phone system to make certain it is in working condition.



Check filtration systems to make certain that they are working.



Work with your local health department and follow their guidelines regarding inspections prior to opening to the public.

DON'T



Ignore this alert.



Increase the risk of loss by doing nothing.



Fail to take action.

Great American can Help!

Check out our all-new Risk Portal for information such as this and other resources that can help you manage your risks:
<https://gaig-shs.riskresourcesportal.org/>