

COVID-19 presents a challenge for the Vashon Community Pool. The mission statement of the Vashon Park District states “Island citizens and visitors will be provided opportunities to improve the quality of their lives”, and VPD believes that the pool provides excellent opportunities for both community health and entertainment.

FACTS:

Island demographics and on-going attendance statistics show that primary & regular users of the Vashon Pool are in the COVID-19 High-Risk category. Vashon Park District must do whatever possible to preserve the health of both the community and staff.

Staffing the Vashon Pool for the summer at regular capacity will **not be** possible due to springtime pool closures, and the inability for new lifeguards to get certified by accredited organizations.

Due to staff shortages, concerns for staff health in the case of a rescue and the inability to maintain proper social distancing, a number of cities around the country are considering closing, or have already closed swimming pools through the summer.

THE PLAN:

Given these facts, if Governor Inslee gives the go-ahead to re-open swimming pools, Vashon Community Pool intends to do the following:

1. Lap Swim **only** through at least July 1. No open swim sessions that cannot allow social distancing. Evaluation of this date will be in late-June and then every 2 weeks, and changes made will be based on the current health and staffing scenario.
2. The pool will be open for lap swim on **Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat** from **10am to 5 pm**. No toys will be allowed.

3. No more “Drop-In” lap swim. **Lap swim will be on a “reservation-system”**, whereas a person will reserve a lane for a 50-minute block (3x lanes on the hour. 3x lanes on the half-hour). One person per lane. Two adults are allowed if they co-habitate, but they must maintain distancing. One parent may share the lane with one child. \$5 per person [age 5 & under is free] per 50-minute block, via punch cards sold in advance. A ‘no-show’ still gets you a ‘punch’.
4. Locker rooms will be available for changing, but **use of the showers is prohibited**. Tables and chairs available on-deck will be limited.
5. Users will be checked at entrance with a non-contact digital infrared forehead thermometer. Masks must be worn at all times once reaching the front door.
6. Staff will wear masks, and regularly wipe down common areas and locker rooms. Any staff with any sort of illness will be sent home.
7. Whole-pool (group) rentals can possibly occur beginning July 1, **on Tues/Thurs, or after 4pm on MWF**. Strict physical distancing protocols must be followed. The slide may not be available.
8. The Vashon Seals must follow the guidance and recommendations of USA Swimming and their local LSC (Pacific NW Swimming). They cannot have more than 12 swimmers at a time, must follow distancing protocol, and locker room facilities cannot be used.

9. If the Seals opt to not rent the pool, lap swim on Mon/Wed/Fri can potentially begin earlier than 10am.

10. Summer swim lessons are TBA.

Thank you for bearing with us as we get through these troubling times, while maintaining the health and safety of our staff and community.