

~~ MAY 7 POOL UPDATE ~~

Since the original plan was developed, Governor Inslee has listed pools as a 'Phase 3' opening ... which scopes out to June 23 as the earliest opening.

Since the original plan from April 20, a number of resources have been pooling (*pun intended*) ideas on the best and safest way to open facilities. **These resources include** –

[Nationwide Pool “Summer Closure” Map](#) – This is a crowd-sourced map through the Aquatics Division of NRPA (National Recreation & Park Assn.) As of May 7, 144 cities/towns have closed pool facilities through the entire summer. The only local pool currently closed is the [City of Edmonds, WA](#).

[Nationwide Pool “Re-Opening” Map](#) – A crowd-sourced map from the NRPA. Not a lot of entries yet, but I was able to use this map to see what other pools have posted as their pool rules. I was unable to find any pools that have 'open swim' as an option this summer. Almost every pool is on a reservation-system, generally no more than one person per lane. Those with 'public swim' were also reservation-only, with very limited offerings. Slides, diving boards, showers, toys were all off-limits.

USA Swimming -- '[Facility Re-Opening Messaging and Planning](#)'

OSHA -- '[Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)'

The Pool Management Group – '[How do you create a safe swim environment with the threat of COVID-19?](#)'. This is a 6-part plan consisting of :

1. Establish new capacity limits to support social distancing.
2. Create a disinfecting plan
3. Create new schedule and an ONLINE reservation system
4. Remove pool furniture and equipment (kick boards, etc). Patrons can bring their own.
5. Discontinue any group games/activities
6. Create a liability waiver and post a COVID-19 warning sign

The **American Red Cross** discontinued lifeguard training in March. On May 6 (yesterday), they began providing guidance for lifeguard training with as much 'virtual training' as possible.

The **Mission Viejo Swim team** opened this week for its elite (Olympic-level) swimmers -- It was one person per lane, in an 18-lane, 50 meter pool. They had to arrive/leave separately, provide their own equipment, no showers, use a backup restroom, and sanitize the bathroom themselves after each use.

Using these resources, I propose the following:

- Pool would be open for lap swim only. Hours tentatively would be **Mon/Wed/Fri/Sat** from **10am to 5 pm**.
- Only 1 person will be allowed per lane. Two adults allowed if they co-habitate, but they must maintain distancing. One parent may share the lane with one child. No gatherings on deck will be allowed.
- No toys allowed in the pool. No swim equipment (kickboards, buoys, etc) provided. Patrons must bring their own.
- No “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). \$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’.
- While waiting in any line, patrons are required to keep 6’ apart. Red markings will be placed to assist.
- Signage reminding the public of social distancing will be posted.
- Sneeze guard will be installed at front counter.
- All counter staff will wear masks and gloves. Lifeguards make usage is TBA.
- All public doors will be propped open, so they don’t have to be touched.
- Locker rooms are for bathroom use only. No showers. Arrive/leave in your suit.
- Staff will go through symptom checking before every shift, including temperature. Log will be kept and available for inspection by the Health Dept.
- Any individual showing any signs or symptoms of illness should not use the facility.
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~~TO-DO LIST BEFORE OPENING ~~

1. Equipment to purchase
 - Gloves
 - Masks
 - Cleaning Wipes
 - Non-contact digital infrared forehead thermometer
2. See which current lifeguards want to work this summer. Possibly advertise for more??
3. Work with lifeguards on all new procedures. Including cleaning, saves, and social distancing.
4. Explore ONLINE options for a reservation system, similar to [PoolsOpen.org](https://www.poolsopen.org).
5. Install a ‘Sneeze Guard’ at the front counter.
6. Create a COVID-19 sign.

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April 20, 2020

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.