



**COVID-19**  
Reopening Indoor  
Swimming Pools

## COVID-19 Specific – Indoor Swimming Pools

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways and is caused by a virus called Coronavirus. The symptoms can be mild, moderate, severe, or fatal.

This is a draft copy of a **generic Risk Assessment** for dealing with the reopening of indoor swimming pools at this time. It is not likely to cover all scenarios and each council should consider their own unique circumstances.

**Name of Assessor:**

**Assessment Date:**

**Review Date:**

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed	Controls Required	Additional Controls	Action by who?	Action by when?	Done
<p>Spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff</li> <li>• Visitors to your premises</li> <li>• Cleaners</li> <li>• Contractors</li> <li>• Vulnerable groups – Elderly, Pregnant workers, those with existing underlying health conditions</li> </ul>	<p>Examples of measures that could be put in place:</p> <p><b>Authority to open</b> Check the Government website for the latest guidance: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities#section-4-1">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/providers-of-grassroots-sport-and-gym-leisure-facilities#section-4-1</a></p> <p><b>Hand Washing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand washing facilities with soap and water in place.</li> <li>• Stringent hand washing taking place.</li> <li>• See hand washing guidance.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/</a></li> <li>• Drying of hands with disposable paper towels.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/research-and-innovation/paper-towels-much-">https://www.nursingtimes.net/news/research-and-innovation/paper-towels-much-</a></li> </ul>	<p>Examples of measures that could be put in place:</p> <p>Review website at least once a week.</p> <p>Review Swim England site regularly: <a href="https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents/">https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents/</a></p> <p>Employees to be reminded on a regular basis to wash their hands for 20 seconds with water and soap and the importance of proper drying with disposable towels. Also reminded to catch coughs and sneezes in tissues - follow Catch it, Bin it, Kill it - and to avoid touching face, eyes, nose or mouth with unclean hands. Tissues will be made available throughout the workplace.</p> <p>To help reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) remind everyone of the public health advice</p>			

		<p><a href="https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus">more-effective-at-removing-viruses-than-hand-dryers-17-04-2020/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gel sanitisers in any area where washing facilities not readily available</li> </ul> <p><b>Cleaning</b> Frequently cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces that are touched regularly - particularly in areas of high-use (such as door handles, light switches, lockers and the reception area) using appropriate cleaning products and methods.</p> <p><b>Social Distancing</b> Reducing the number of persons in any work area to comply with the 2 metre gap recommended by the Public Health Agency: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus">https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-coronavirus</a></p> <p>Posters, leaflets and other materials are available for display. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19</a></p> <p>Rigorous checks will be carried out by management to ensure that the necessary procedures are being followed.</p> <p>Staff to be reminded on a daily basis of the importance of social distancing both in the workplace and outside of it. Management checks to ensure this is adhered to.</p> <p>Keeping the activity time involved as short as possible.</p>			
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		<p>Taking steps to review work schedules including start &amp; finish times/shift patterns, working from home etc. to reduce number of employees on site at any one time. Also relocating workers to other tasks.</p> <p>Redesigning processes to ensure social distancing is in place.</p> <p>Ensuring sufficient rest-breaks for staff.</p> <p>Social distancing also to be adhered to in canteen area and smoking area.</p> <p><b><u>Wearing of PPE</u></b> Where Risk Assessment identifies wearing of gloves and/or masks as a requirement of the job, an adequate supply of these should be provided. Staff will be instructed on how to remove PPE carefully to reduce contamination and how to dispose of them safely.</p> <p><b><u>Symptoms of COVID-19</u></b> If anyone becomes unwell with a new continuous cough or a high temperature in the workplace they will be sent home and</p>	<p>Using screens or barriers to separate people from each other.</p> <p>Using back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible.</p> <p>Reducing the number of people each person has contact with by using 'fixed teams or partnering' (so each person works with only a few others).</p> <p>Staff to be reminded that wearing PPE is not a substitute for good hand washing.</p> <p>Internal communication channels and cascading of messages through management will be carried out regularly</p>			
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		<p>advised to follow the stay at home guidance.</p> <p>Management will maintain regular contact with staff members during this time.</p> <p>If advised that a member of staff or public has developed COVID-19 and were recently on our premises (including where a member of staff has visited other work place premises), the management team of the workplace will contact the Public Health Authority to discuss the case, identify people who have been in contact with them and will take advice on any actions or precautions that should be taken.</p> <p><b><u>Mental Health</u></b> Management should promote mental health &amp; wellbeing awareness to staff during the COVID-19 outbreak and should offer whatever support they can to help. Reference - <a href="https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/">https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/</a></p> <p><b><u>Moving Around</u></b> Objective: To have workers/volunteers and customers maintain social distancing</p>	<p>to reassure and support employees in a fast-changing situation.</p> <p>Management will offer support to staff who are affected by COVID-19 or have a family member affected.</p> <p>Regular communication of mental health information and an open door policy for those who need additional support.</p> <p>Reducing movement by discouraging non-essential trips within buildings and venues,</p>			
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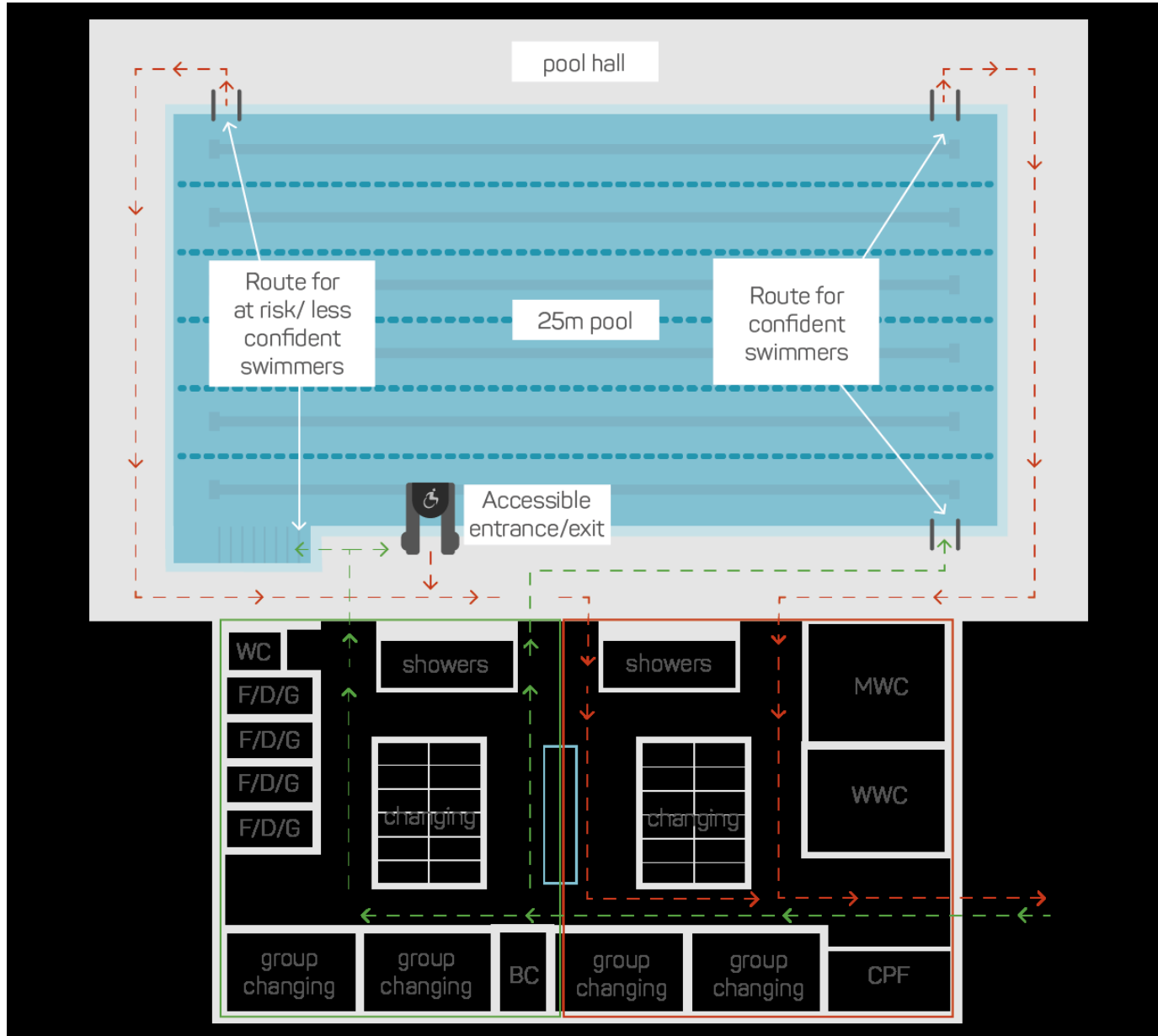
		<p>as far as possible while people travel through the swimming pool facility.</p> <p><b><u>Visiting instructors, coaches, teachers and management</u></b> Objective: To ensure safe practices for visiting instructors and supervisors that rotate across sports venues and leisure facilities.</p>	<p>for example, restricting access to some areas and encouraging use of radios or telephones, where permitted. These items require cleaning between users if used multiple times.</p> <p>Introducing more one-way flow through buildings. Providing floor markings and signage should remind both workers and customers to adhere to social distancing wherever possible.</p> <p>Reducing maximum occupancy for lifts to a number that allows for social distancing, providing hand sanitiser for the operation of lifts and encouraging use of stairs wherever possible.</p> <p>Making sure that people with disabilities are able to access lifts.</p> <p>Regulating use of high traffic areas including corridors, lifts, turnstiles and walkways to maintain social distancing.</p> <p>Considering limiting the number of classes that rotating instructors teach in order to minimise exposure.</p>			
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		<p><b><u>Ventilation of Swimming Pool area</u></b> Ventilation is an important part of mitigating against the transmission of COVID-19. Ventilation into the building should be optimised to ensure a fresh air supply is provided to all areas of the facility and increased wherever possible.</p> <p><b><u>Shower and Changing Facilities whilst Social Distancing</u></b> Changing rooms are an area of increased risk of transmission. It is important that social distancing is maintained in changing rooms and showers and that they are only used if essential. All venues should encourage attendees to arrive at the facility in swimwear (under clothes) and where possible to travel home to change/shower. Use of changing rooms and showering facilities should in general be avoided where possible, although these must be available for participants with disabilities or special needs and are likely to be needed after swimming. If changing</p>	<p>All heating/cooling, ventilation systems should be checked by a suitably qualified person prior to opening ventilation systems.</p> <p>Maintaining good ventilation in the swimming pool area. For example, opening windows and doors frequently, where possible.</p> <p>Taking steps to ensure that all water systems, for example showers and sinks, are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimise the risk of legionella and other diseases associated with water.</p> <p>Where shower and changing facilities are required, setting clear use and cleaning guidance for showers. Lockers and changing rooms should be kept clean and kept clear of personal items. Social distancing should be achieved as much as possible.</p>			
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		<p><b>Maximum Pool Distancing</b> Government guidance, as outlined in ‘Providers of grassroots sport and gym/leisure facilities’ document, suggests a minimum of 3 sqm of water space per bather. This however, must be taken as a starting point to risk-assess the specific activity and the space required to safely maintain social distancing for each participant in order to mitigate risk. Taking the above parameters into account; distance, time and activity, each activity is assessed individually to ascertain the specific bather loading, considering the activity’s effect on the distance and time at which swimmers can maintain safe social distancing. For example, an activity such as public swimming, where participants are moving freely and more randomly around the designated area in the pool, will require a higher square metre area per participant in order to maintain a safe level of risk.</p>	<p>social distancing guidance above with any other swimmers not within their household and staff at all times. For carers the same principles would apply.</p> <p>See Swim England guidance for additional advice regarding distancing. An example given on the next page.</p>			
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**If you require further guidance or information on the above Risk Assessment, please email us at [insurance@hibcouncils.co.uk](mailto:insurance@hibcouncils.co.uk).**

*Any views or opinions expressed in this document are for guidance only and are not intended as a substitute for appropriate professional advice. We have taken all reasonable steps to ensure the information contained herein is accurate at the time of writing. In relation to any particular risk assessment issues, readers are advised to seek specific advice.*

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