



City of Berkeley Aquatic Center Operation Procedures COVID-19

City of Berkeley Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Department

Updated September 30, 2020

Introduction

This document establishes the policies and procedures necessary to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the safety of all users and staff of the City of Berkeley Swim Centers. These policies incorporate industry best practices related to the Covid-19 response and swimming pool operations as developed by the City of Berkeley Public Health Department, California Department of Public Health, and the Federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). These Policies may be modified and updated as new guidelines are published by regulatory agencies.

Reservation Process

Online Reservations: Reservations for both Lap Swim and Independent Exercise can be made online at <https://secure.rec1.com/CA/berkeley-ca/catalog>.

Phone Reservations: Reservations for both Lap Swim and Independent Exercise can be made via phone by calling the Recreation Customer Service HUB at 510-981-5150, option 0.

- **ALL Swimmers** are limited to one (1) swim slot per day between both pools and three (3) total swim slots per week (Monday-Sunday). This applies to ALL programs (Lap Swim, Independent Exercise (Dive Tank), Independent Exercise (Shallow Pool), Family Swim).

No reservations will be taken at either of the Swim Centers at this time.

Daily Operations

- Advanced registration is required, either online or via phone with the Recreation Customer Service HUB.
- Only registered swimmers and scheduled staff may enter the facility. No guests will be permitted without prior authorization from the City of Berkeley Recreation Division.
- All swimmers must follow directions as given by the Aquatics staff, as they are tasked with assuring your safety in the facility.
- Swimmers and staff must always wear a face covering when not in the water.
- Swimmers shall arrive no more than 5 minutes before their scheduled swim time in order to limit the number of individuals congregating in the entry/exit area
- Swimmers will check-in at the front door of the Swim Center and then proceed to the gate to enter the facility by following the purple arrows.
- As part of the check-in process each swimmer will undergo a health screening. The process for the health screening is outlined in the Safety Requirements Section below.
- **One swimmer per lane** – Lanes are first come, first served for those who are registered.

- Each swim lane will have a chair pre-positioned on each end of the pool. This chair is where your belongings should be placed for the duration of your use of the pool. Do not move the chair without the permission of the Aquatics Staff.
- No City provided equipment, such as kickboards or floats, will be available to customers, though you are welcome to provide your own equipment.
- Each swim slot is 45 minutes. Regardless of when swimmers enter the pool, they must exit the pool by the 45-minute mark and exit the facility by the 50-minute mark.
- Swimmers will exit the facility through the same gate that they entered, by following the blue arrows.
- Swim Center staff will provide a 5-minute warning to all swimmers.

Social Distancing

All City of Berkeley Swim Center users will be required to follow social distancing guidelines as outlined in this policy, as well as any more stringent policy issued in a Public Health Order.

- Staff and swimmers must maintain 6 feet of distance from each other at all times.
- **One swimmer per lane** - Lanes are first come, first served for those who are registered.
- California Code of Regulation, as it relates to Swimming Pool Operations, requires that we provide locker room facilities. In accordance with the City of Berkeley Health Order, changing areas and showers will be unavailable and bathroom stalls and sinks will be in use for emergency purposes only. We encourage you to arrive in your suit ready to swim and utilize bathroom facilities prior to arriving or after your swim slot.

Safety Requirements

Health Screening:

- Each swimmer's temperature will be taken before they enter the facility.
- The following questions will be asked of each swimmer:
 - Have you had a fever (100 degrees or more) in the last 24 hours?
 - Have you had a cough or shortness of breath in the last 24 hours?
 - Have you been in contact with anyone that has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 2 weeks?
- Swimmers who have a temperature of 100°F (37.78°C) or higher or who answer **yes** to any of the questions below may not be allowed to enter the facility.
- All staff and swimmers are required to wear a face covering except when in the water.
- All staff and swimmers are expected to promote good hygiene including, but not limited to:
 - Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer frequently.
 - Hand Sanitizer will be provided for use at the entry counter and on the pool deck.

- The only time that the 6-foot social distance requirements can be infringed upon is when a Lifeguard is making a rescue.
- Staff will adhere to a rigorous cleaning and disinfection routine.

Program Offerings

- Current offerings include Lap Swim and Independent Exercise. These programs allow for the greatest possible social distancing and safety of our swimmers. Specifics related to these programs are listed below. Additional programming will be added as staffing allows.
- **Lap Swim:** Continuous swimming in an organized lane environment. This program is limited to participants 16 years and older. Currently one swimmer per lane is allowed.
- **Independent Exercise (Dive Tank):** Time to exercise in the deep pool (10-12 feet deep) without an instructor. This program is limited to participants who are 18 years and older. Swimmers must stay in their designated lane. Current Limits: Three swimmers at King Pool; Four Swimmers at West Campus Pool.

Air Quality Procedure

The City of Berkeley monitors Air Quality conditions. On poor air quality days, we may close the pools for the health and safety of our swimmers and staff.

- Pool Status updates will be made daily by 6:30am during poor air quality days.
 - Notifications will be sent via email (to those who are registered for the week), posted on our Aquatics Website and updated on both pool voicemails.
- If the air quality index (AQI) reading is 151 AQI or higher (unhealthy level)*, we will close pools.
 - If pools are open, we will continue to monitor the air quality throughout the day
- If we close pools due to poor air quality, swimmers will receive a refund if their swim time was affected. All refunds will be processed at the end of each month.

*We will utilize the following resources to determine AQI: Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Air Now (Fire and Smoke Map), and Purple Air.

Facility Lane Number

King Pool (1700 Hopkins Street) | 510-981-5105



West Campus Pool (2100 Browning Street) | 510-981-5125



