



As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve at a fast pace, the BC & Yukon Branch of the Lifesaving Society will continue to defer to direction provided by [Health Canada](#), the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) and local [Health Authorities](#).

Based on the latest recommendations of limiting public gatherings of more than 250 people and keeping distance between those in smaller group gatherings, until further notice, it would seem prudent for aquatic facilities to:

1. Limit admittance to public swims to a maximum of 250 people including those in the pool area, changerooms, adjacent/connected fitness facilities, etc.
2. Close small hot tubs, saunas, steam rooms and other similar features where a distance of 1 to 2 metres between users is not practical and highly unlikely. This is a local decision to be considered as to the potential for airborne transmission. As mentioned in the March 12 Update: *The Centre for Disease Control website states, "There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19."*
3. Ensure staff and patrons take hygiene precautions similar to those taken during peak flu season such as:
  - staying home if you or a member of your family is not feeling well or have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and/or shortness of breath
  - washing your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and warm water, or alcohol-based disposable hand wipes
  - avoid touching your face
  - cough and sneeze into your elbow, not your hands, and if using a tissue, throw it away immediately
  - keep your distance (1 to 2 metres) from others wherever possible, especially those who are coughing or sneezing
4. Place high priority on maintaining adequate levels of pool water sanitizers.
5. Plan for more frequent disinfection of public spaces, especially common contact surfaces.

At this time, there does not appear to be a need to limit or cancel aquatic programs and services, assuming the precautions noted above are heeded and enforced.

The Lifesaving Society will continue to monitor the situation and provide any further guidance which may assist in limiting the spread of COVID-19 in our aquatic facilities.