



# Aquatics in the COVID-19 Era



## Agenda – May 5, 2020

### Introductions & Process

- Lifesaving Society**
- Results of Seasonal Aquatics Survey
  - What to Know About Certifications
  - Knowledge from Other Jurisdictions
  - What's to Come

- Canadian Red Cross**
- Recommendations for In-Person Training and Facility re-opening
  - New Virtual Course Offerings
  - Upcoming Water Safety Community Engagement Events

### Questions/Comments



**It is important that any communication from Lifesaving Society not be interpreted by the public and members as permission to open or a way to open a pool/waterfront. The primary concern needs to be communications that are in step with provincial health directives. The rescue standard should not be diminished because of COVID-19.**



# Lifesaving Society - Results of Seasonal Aquatics Survey

1. What number of seasonal facilities are under your authority?

Outdoor Pools	Supervised Waterfronts	Unsupervised Waterfronts
68	19	40
54%	15%	31%
Percentages are of total pools reported		



# Lifesaving Society - Results of Seasonal Aquatics Survey

2. What are your current plans for opening?

Will not open at all	Likely Not to Open in May	Likely Not to Open in June	Considering July/ August Opening	Undecided at This Time
5	6	5	17	27
11%	13%	11%	37%	59%
Percentages are of total Q2 respondents				



# Lifesaving Society - Results of Seasonal Aquatics Survey

3. If you anticipate opening outdoor pools and/or waterfronts at all this summer, what precautions do you anticipate taking?

Limited # of Users	Enforcing Physical Distancing	↑ PPE for staff	↑ Cleaning & Disinfecting	↑ Staff to Patron Ratios	↑ Hand Washing Stns	Reduced Operating Hrs
35	31	28	33	15	23	19
97%	86%	78%	92%	42%	64%	53%

Percentages are of total Q3 respondents



# Lifesaving Society - Results of Seasonal Aquatics Survey

4. If opening, will you be requiring additional staff training/refreshing?

Yes	No	N/A
37	2	5
84%	5%	11%
Percentages are of total Q4 respondents		



# **Lifesaving Society - Certifications & Extensions**

## **Certification Extensions**

- **Vocational Awards**
- **Lifesaving Instructor**

## **Virtual & Blended Learning Opportunities**

- **First Aid**
- **Lifesaving & Lifeguarding**
- **Leadership (LSI, FAI, NLI)**
- **Aquatic Safety Management**



# **Lifesaving Society - COVID-19 First Aid Recommendations**

## **General Recommendations**

- **Universal Approach**
- **Limit Rescuer Contact**
- **Limit Rescuer Numbers**

## **First Aid Interventions**

- **Direct Contact vs. Non-contact**
- **Low-risk vs. High-risk**





# **Lifesaving Society - COVID-19 Resuscitation Recommendations**

## **Resuscitation (CPR) for a Non-Drowning Victim**

- **Compression Only**
- **Covering Victim's Mouth and Nose**

## **Resuscitation (CPR) for a Drowning Victim**

- **Time to First Breath Determines Victim Outcome**
- **Lifeguards Need to Balance Personal Safety with Providing Lifesaving Care**
- **Ventilations Recommended with Appropriate PPE**



# **Lifesaving Society - COVID-19 PPE Recommendations**

## **Low-risk**

- **Rescuer: mask, face shield/goggles, gloves**
- **Victim: mask**

## **High-risk**

- **Rescuer(s): N95 or surgical mask, face shield/goggles, gloves, gown/laundry clothing**
- **Victim: Bag-valve-mask and viral filter with a complete seal OR pocket mask and viral filter with a complete seal**
- **There are single rescuer modifications in the documents to come**

## **While Guarding**

- **Fabric mask (3 layers)**



# **Lifesaving Society - Information Bulletin for Canadian Swimming Pools & Waterfronts**

***Release Date: May 18***

- **COVID-19 Facility Operations: Recommendations for Progressive Reopening**
  - Access to facility for staff and public
  - Employee equipment including PPE
  - Pre-opening communication to staff and public
  - Phasing programs in, recreational swims, sports, etc.
- **COVID-19 Aquatic Facility Maintenance: Cleaning, decontamination and safe water management of aquatic facilities**



# **Lifesaving Society - Recommendations for Aquatic Staff Training**

**Overview of information and strategies in:**

- General Strategies
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Aquatic Staff
- Staff Training Guidelines for Safety Supervision, First Aid & Resuscitation

**Appendices of this document provide more in-depth detail, recommendations and examples.**



# **Lifesaving Society - What's to Come**

***Release Date: May 25***

- A. Rescue Ready Assessment COVID-19**
- B. Guidelines for In-Water Rescues**
- C. COVID-19 Protocols for Safety Education and Rule Enforcement**
- D. First Aid and Resuscitation Protocols**
- E. COVID-19 Lifeguard Personal Protective Equipment**



# **Lifesaving Society - What's to Come**

***Release Date: June 1***

**E. COVID-19 Staff Training for Instructional Programs**

**F. COVID-19 Lifesaving Sport Return to Practice Safety Plan**



# **Lifesaving Society - Assistant Lifeguard for Swimming Pools**

## **Standard:**

**To be employed as an assistant lifeguard, an individual shall be a minimum of 15 years of age and hold (at a minimum) a current Lifesaving Society Bronze Cross certification and a current Emergency First Aid certification.**





# **Lifesaving Society - Assistant Lifeguard: Implementation Highlights**

**The number of Assistant Lifeguards ... shall not exceed the number of National Lifeguards on deck.**

## **Assistant lifeguards may:**

- provide supervision of a zone or at locations where specific equipment or activities require targeted supervision (e.g., climbing wall, rope swings, etc.)
- provide surveillance over swimmer safety, model
- promote safe aquatic behaviour, provide positive public relations
- respond to emergency situations and provide patron care





# **Lifesaving Society - Assistant Lifeguard: Implementation Highlights**

- Assistant lifeguards
  - Do not replace National Lifeguards ... responsible for the overall safety and supervision
  - Assistant lifeguards shall not perform opening or closing duties without a National Lifeguard on duty
  - An Assistant Lifeguard shall not work alone without a National Lifeguard on duty
- National Lifeguards take the lead role in risk assessments, lifeguard positioning and rotation, coordinating rescue response, administrative duties and in-service training.



# **Lifesaving Society - B.C. Guidelines for Pool Operations**

**There must also be at least one additional person who is trained in the procedures and use of equipment.**

**Described in pool safety plan – and designated by the operator for this purpose – on duty.**

- **Familiar with the emergency procedures**
- **Practiced in their role in these procedures, through formal training and regular in-service training**
- **Certified with a current CPR certificate (or Standard First Aid)**



# **Lifesaving Society - National Drowning Prevention Week**

**July 19 – 25: Social media focus, more to come shortly**



**Questions?**