



Frederick County Public Schools

COVID-19

Swimming Pool Guidelines



September 27, 2021 (v.5)

# COVID-19: FCPS Swimming Pool Guidelines for Community User Groups

## Background:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Frederick County Public School (FCPS) facilities were closed by the Maryland State Superintendent on March 13, 2020. This included use of FCPS swimming pools at Middletown High School and Walkersville High School.

On August 5, 2020, the Board of Education of Frederick County (BOE) approved limited uses of FCPS facilities by community user groups (CUG). One of the approved uses including reopening the two FCPS swimming pools.

In consultation with the Frederick County Health Department and FCPS Health Services Specialist, this plan outlines modifications to normal pool usage procedures for CUG during the pandemic. Due to the fluid situation of the pandemic and frequent updates to CDC, state, local and FCPS guidelines, this document will be periodically updated. The most current version of this plan will be available on the [FCPS Use of Facilities](#) webpage.

## Requesting Use of FCPS Swimming Pool:

In order to request permission to reserve an FCPS pool, all pool CUGs must do the following:

1. Submit a use of facilities request form for use of a pool – [www.fcps.org/uof](http://www.fcps.org/uof).
2. Complete the FCPS COVID-19 Waiver form (requires completion each fiscal year and a physical signature). Email Waiver to [facilities.uof@fcps.org](mailto:facilities.uof@fcps.org) once a request form has been submitted. The Waiver will cover all event dates for the current fiscal year (to June 30 each year).
3. End time for pool users is modified to no later than 10 PM at the discretion of the FCPS Pool Operations Supervisor.

## Entry and Exit Procedures:

1. Exterior doors to the school's pool area will be the only ones used for entering or exiting the facility. One door will be marked for ENTRY ONLY and one door marked for EXIT ONLY.
2. All participants of the CUG must stop and read the current health screening signage posted on the pool entry door before each daily entry to the pool. The signage could be updated periodically so it must be read before each and every daily entry to the pool.
3. No participant of a pool CUG may enter or exit using any other door of the school building.
4. Accessing any other area in the school other than pool and locker room is prohibited unless approval has been given on a separate request form (such as cafeteria, etc.).

## Capacity Limits:

1. Effective 5/1/2021: Forty-eight (48) is the maximum number of participants that may be in the pool area (water and deck combined). This number does not include FCPS staff on-duty.
2. Effective 9/13/2021: State of Maryland is not requiring capacity limits as long as social distancing can be maintained.

## Cleaning Procedures:

1. FCPS staff will provide cleaning/disinfecting after each event using FCPS-approved cleaning supplies and protocols.

## Health Screenings:

1. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, access to FCPS facilities is restricted for anyone who may have recently been exposed to or diagnosed with the virus.
2. The CUG must carefully screen each and every participant of their group before entering the facility.
3. See Entry and Exit Procedures #2 above.

## Swim Team/Club Users:

1. Coaches will meet all swimmers with their group at the entry door.
  - a. Swim Team/Club coaches must maintain a daily attendance record of swimmers to help facilitate contact tracing if needed.
  - b. Those who passed health screening protocols (including all Swim Team/Club coaches and staff), will enter the building as a collective group (see Entry/Exit procedures and Capacity Limits sections) once FCPS staff has notified the group it is appropriate for the next group to enter. Anyone from the group failing the health screening must not enter the FCPS facility and will follow procedures developed by the CUG.
  - c. Showers should be taken at home prior to arriving at pool.
  - d. Swimmers must arrive and leave in bathing suit.
  - e. Each swimmer's personal belongings will be left on a chair on the pool deck.
  - f. One (1) toilet/urinal/sink will be available in each locker room for use.
  - g. No parent/guardian is allowed inside pool area. If a parent/guardian plans to stay on FCPS property, he/she must stay in car.

## All Other Swimming Group Users:

1. Showers should be taken at home prior to arriving at pool.
2. Swimmers must arrive and leave in bathing suit.
3. Each swimmer's personal belongings will be left on a chair on the pool deck (marked 6' apart).
4. No spectators are allowed inside the pool area, including parents/guardians -- only swimmers/teachers/coaches are allowed.
5. Expectation of each swimmer:
  - a. **DO NOT COME TO THE POOL OR ENTER THE FACILITY IF YOU ARE SICK IN ANY WAY. Each CUG must have their own procedures to screen and handle participants not passing the health screening.** Any participant that does not pass the health screening must not enter the FCPS facility.
  - b. Use hand sanitizer immediately upon entry into the school's pool area.
  - c. Wear a facial covering when entering and exiting, and at all times on the pool deck, particularly if 6' distancing cannot be maintained.
  - d. Do not wear a facial covering when getting into the pool.
  - e. Respect social distancing guidelines.
  - f. Come with a full bottle of water; do not share water bottles.
  - g. Do not share equipment.
  - h. Locker rooms will be used for emergency bathroom use only (one toilet/urinal/sink in each locker room will be designated for use)
  - i. Return directly to your personal items when time is completed and prepare to immediately vacate the facility.
6. The CUG contact who submitted the FCPS Use of Facilities request form is responsible for maintaining a list of participants who attended each session/event date to assist with contact tracing should it be needed.

## Swim Meets

1. CUG Swim Meets are allowed effective June 1, 2021.
2. Maximum capacity is allowed; however, swimmers must not congregate at ends and must maintain distance.

3. After warm ups, the only people on the deck will be those working the meet -- coaches and swimmers heading to the blocks.
4. Swimmers can exit at the deep end; they do not need to go to the shallow.
5. If you're on the deck and not in the water, you must wear your mask.
6. Maintain 6 ft. distancing while on deck.
7. Spectators are allowed outside the building only; staging is permitted outside the building.

### Swim Lessons

1. Swimming lessons will begin on July 6, 2021.

### Suspected/Positive COVID-19 Cases:

1. Follow the procedures found in *FCPS COVID-19 Use of Facilities Guidelines*.

### Contact

For clarification or information pertaining to these guidelines, please contact [fcpspools.uof@fcps.org](mailto:fcpspools.uof@fcps.org).