



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Nebraska Pool Owners and Operators

**THRU:** Steven M. Goans, Deputy Director *SMG*  
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

Shelley Schneider, Division Administrator *SS*  
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

**FROM:** Tom Buell, Section Supervisor *TB*  
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

**Date:** April 15, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Indoor/Outdoor Pool Opening Guidelines and Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

### Indoor and Outdoor Pools

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance for both indoor and outdoor pools during the COVID-19 pandemic. State-Wide Direct Health Measures (DHM) and local health directives at the time of this memo require social distancing and groups no larger than 10 people. There are some facilities that may be able to meet these difficult COVID-19 requirements and not contribute to further spread of the virus through community contact. The Department recommends pools, spas and spray parks carefully evaluate these requirements and close or delay opening until the social distancing requirements in the DHM are lifted. Current CDC guidance states the COVID-19 virus is not spread in pool water provided proper pool chemistry is maintained, but there is a concern for common areas, and people being in close contact with one another and in groups of 10 or larger.

Local health departments, municipalities, or other local jurisdictions may require pools to close because of the ongoing pandemic.

If pools elect to remain open or open for the summer season, the Department strongly recommends observance of the 10-person maximum for the gathering, excluding staff, and a minimum distance of 6 feet between patrons until the DHMs are lifted. Proper pool chemistry shall be maintained and monitored. Common areas should be properly disinfected frequently to minimize the potential for virus exposure. Please contact the Department if you have questions on disinfectant procedures. Precautions and proper steps should be taken to ensure lifeguard safety.

### Lifeguards

As described in the Department's March 23, 2020 memo, lifeguard training and CPR requirements were given an extension until June 30, 2020. The Department is granting an additional extension for lifeguard certification through August 30, 2020. For CPR requirements, the Department will accept online courses for an extension through December 31, 2020. Historically, the Department has required CPR training to be in-person. Please note, this is only for renewals, for a new lifeguard to become certified they would need to complete both an in-person lifeguard and CPR certification.

If you have any questions please contact the Department at 402-471-8283.