

2021 Aquatic Venue – Operating Check List

Due to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) facilities that are permitted to operate must follow the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) considerations. Please review the website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

Owners and Operator must follow the Public Health Order (PHO) set forth by the Governor of New Mexico and the New Mexico Department of Health that applies to their facilities. To review the most current PHO please go to the website <https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/>. You may contact the local NMED office or NMED inspector to determine if your facility will be permitted to operate under the PHO. You can also visit the NMED website where there is a COVID-19 area at the top of the home page. www.env.nm.gov/pools/pools-program/

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL AQUATIC VENUES (POOLS, SPAS, SPRAY PADS, WATERSLIDES)

- Vacuum outlets must have an approved device cover 5.6.10.6.3 MAHC
- All aquatic venues on recirculation systems must have automated disinfectant and PH controller (ORP)- 4.7.3.2.8.1 MAHC
- Certified operator on staff or under contract – 6.1.1 MAHC
- Main drain covers, and equalizer port covers must be ASME/ANSI A112.19.8-2007 (VGB 2008) compliant. The federal VGB Act requires that older covers be replaced. Please have a copy of the certificate of compliance for the drain cover.
- Dual main drains at least three feet apart center to center. Single main drains must be retrofitted with safety devices, such as a safety vacuum release system (SVRS), to prevent entrapment. In addition, the certified operator must demonstrate at each inspection that the SVRS is properly working.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- Check Lifeguard requirements
- Aquatic operators, attendants, or owners shall verify adult supervision of children under the age of 14, in pools where lifeguards are not required – 6.4.2.2.3.4 MAHC
- Check Ring Buoy –with ropes of length at least 1.5 times max. pool width
- Check Rescue pole to verify they are sturdy, non-telescoping and at least 12 feet in length with a "shepherd's hook" attached.
- Check Lifeline to assure it is in good condition.
- Working telephone must be on the premises with emergency numbers posted.
- Ladders in the deep end have non-slip treads, and hand rails for steps are secure.
- Gates and doors are self-closing with a self-latching device that is lockable from the exterior to prevent unauthorized access. Exiting gates for emergency use must have proper signage and must open away from venues.
- Aquatic Facility Operations Plan
- Check and Restock First Aid Kit - 5.8.5.2.2.2 MAHC
 - 1) A First Aid Guide,
 - 2) Absorbent compress,
 - 3) Adhesive bandages,
 - 4) Adhesive tape,
 - 5) Sterile pads,
 - 6) Disposable gloves,
 - 7) Scissors,
 - 8) Elastic wrap,
 - 9) Emergency blanket,
 - 10) Resuscitation mask with one-way valve, and
 - 11) Blood borne pathogen spill kit.

SIGNAGE

- ❑ If no lifeguard present, post: "WARNING -NO LIFEGUARD SERVICE IS PROVIDED. ALL CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN OBSERVER 18 YEARS OR OLDER. IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT: ____ "
- ❑ Post Bather Load for each aquatic venue
- ❑ Post Spa precaution sign – 6.4.2.2.3.7 MAHC
- ❑ Post Signs that explain proper way to use pool slide or waterslide
- ❑ Post an updated American Red Cross CPR chart.
- ❑ Post sign with facility address at emergency phone.

WATER SUPPLY & RECIRCULATION

- ❑ Check that skimmers work; check skimmer baskets, hair/lint catcher and equalizer valves.
- ❑ Check overflow gutter system grates
- ❑ Check that drains and equalizer lines have anti-entrapment covers or grates.
- ❑ Check that filters and the pressure gauge work; check the flow meter and its location;
- ❑ Check for minimum turnover/flow rate (6-hour for most pools, (1-hour for spas built before 3/30/05), and 30-minutes for newly built or remodeled spas and spray pads, 1-hour for wading pools). To calculate turnover rate (Volume of pool) ÷ (gpm) ÷ 60 = hours and (Volume of spa or spray pad) ÷ (gpm) = minutes. See 4.7.1.10 for turnover times.
- ❑ Check backwash water disposal; check that backflow is prevented at backwash/drain discharge by air gap
- ❑ Check cross connections–vacuum breakers on hose bibs, vacuum line connections, verify air gaps to sewer connection, verify protection of water supply.
- ❑ Check that the manual emergency pump shut-off switch and audible alarm is in place and functional. Turn on jets when checking spa to ensure jets turn off also.

PHYSICAL/STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS

- ❑ Check Ventilation – excessive condensation, rust on vents and/or sprinklers, odor and humidity will indicate a problem with air exchanges or humidity level.
- ❑ Check that handrails, steps, and ladders are securely fastened
- ❑ Check that spa jet timer is at out of reach from the edge of the spa and does not exceed 15 minutes
- ❑ Verify that a 1”-2” contrasting marking is on the leading edge of each step-in pools/spas, and ¾”-2” contrasting markings on the leading edge of benches.
- ❑ Verify that depth markings are in contrasting colors, at least 4” high on wall and runway.
- ❑ Verify that runways (4 feet from the edge of the pool) are clear of furniture and tripping hazards.
- ❑ Eliminate hazards - toe stubbers, head bashers, foot cutters, sharp edges, protrusions, exposed electric wires and chemicals, etc.;

RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESSES (RWIs) GUIDELINES FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

- ❑ Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/swimmers/rwi.html> for guidelines provided by the CDC
- ❑ Consider regular hyperchlorination (e.g., weekly) at levels known to kill Crypto. Hyperchlorination levels are found at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/fecalresponse.html#fecal-incident> Implement and enforce diarrhea-exclusion policies for bathers
- ❑ Consider adding supplemental disinfection (UV system or ozonation)

WATER QUALITY

- ❑ Check if a functional DPD test kit is onsite for chlorine (or bromine), pH, or cyanuric acid (outdoor venues).
- ❑ Check and record chemical readings.

Chemical/Parameter	Pools	Spas	Spray pads	Comments
Maximum temperature	104 °F	104 °F	104 °F	
Free available chlorine for venues not using cyanuric acid	1-10ppm	3-10ppm	1-10ppm	
Free available chlorine for venue using cyanuric acid	2-10ppm	3-10ppm	2-10ppm	
Combined chlorine	0.4 ppm max	0.4 ppm max	0.4 ppm max	
Total available bromine	3-8 ppm total	4-8ppm total	3-8 ppm total	
Cyanuric acid (stabilizer) <u><i>NMED prohibits cyanuric acid use for indoor aquatic venues and all outdoor spas and therapy pools.</i></u>	100 ppm max	<u><i>As of August 1, 2020, cyanuric acid is no longer allowed in outdoor spas, already prohibited in indoor.</i></u>	100 ppm max	Ideal 30 ppm
pH	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 – 7.8	7.2 –7.8	Ideal 7.5-7.6
Clarity	Check if drain visible in deepest part	Check if drain visible		

- ❑ Check connections of disinfectant system and pH adjuster and that the ORP manual is available to the operator
- ❑ Restock chemicals for the chemical test kit, and store in area away from direct exposure to sunlight.
- ❑ Note that hand dosing of disinfectant is prohibited, except to super-chlorinate or hyper-chlorinate (“shock”). Anytime chemicals are added directly to the venues, the venue must be closed to bathers until chemical balance is restored to acceptable ranges.
- ❑ **Note all venues that are prohibited from the use of cyanuric acid should verify the super-chlorination chemical obtained for the facility does not contain cyanuric acid, dichlor or trichlor chemicals.**
- ❑ Note that Spas must be drained and refilled. See 5.12.7.2.1 MAHC for water replacement calculation.