

NC PHASE 2 – AQUATICS AREA SAFETY MEASURES

Based on the guidelines that Governor Cooper outlined for Phase 2, fitness centers in NC are not allowed to open until further notice. However, Phase 2 guidelines have lifted restrictions for public pools. As a result of lifting these restrictions, we will be [reopening our lap pool on June 1st](#) with restrictions in accordance with state and local guidelines.

As a result of NC's Phase 2 requirements and additional safety measures implemented by UNC Wellness Centers, our offerings in the aquatics area will be limited to ensure we are following the guidance outlined in the governor's plan and facilitating appropriate physical distancing to help minimize exposure to others.

COVID-19 and Water

Proper maintenance of the pools is critical to providing a safe environment for our pool users. According to CDC's guidance regarding treated recreational water and COVID-19, there is no evidence that the virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to people through the water in pools, hot tubs, spas, or water play areas. The CDC notes that proper operation of a pool (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) should inactivate the virus in the water. UNC Wellness Centers have always placed a high priority of proper water maintenance and monitoring.

Aquatics Area Safety Measures - The following safety measures are in accordance with state, local, CDC and other organizations such as the Medical Fitness Association and USA Swimming:

- Numerous scheduled manual chlorine and pH checks by lifeguards to ensure proper disinfection levels throughout the day.
- Latest line of industries most reliable and innovative water chemistry controllers that continuously monitor proper pool chemistry levels.
- Ultraviolet system as secondary source of sanitation: Ultraviolet (UV) pool sanitizers utilize a cutting-edge, non-chemical process that uses germicidal UV light rays to sanitize water. UV pool systems destroy over 99.5% of pathogens that may enter the pool. Toxic chloramines and other disinfection by-products are safely eliminated.
- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas. All disinfecting products we are using meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
- Per NC requirements, limit the user capacity on the pool deck to no more than 50% of maximum occupancy. Max occupancy for Meadowmont is 29. Max occupancy for NW Cary is 33. Our actual occupancy on the pool deck will be much lower than the allowable maximum due to our restriction of one lap swimmer per lane and entrance to the aquatics area by reservation only.
- Per NC requirements, limit the user capacity in the pool to no more than 10 people per 1,000 square feet of pool surface area. Max occupancy is 28 at Meadowmont and 38 at NW Cary. Our actual occupancy in the pool will be 5 at MEA and 7 at NWC due to our restriction of one lap swimmer per lane.
- Hand sanitizer station and disinfectant wipes available in the aquatics area for members and employees.
- Conduct daily symptom screening of employees at entrance to workplace with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to isolate.
- Signage posted reminding people about physical distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from others).
- Seating will be spaced over 6 feet apart to ensure physical distancing while lap lane users are out of the water.
- Locker rooms will not be available for use to ensure physical distancing and to minimize exposure.
- Towels will not be available to minimize the exposure and transmission of virus.
- Limiting the use to one swimmer per lane to ensure appropriate physical distancing.
- Stagger swimming start times to minimize amount of people in the aquatics area at the same time.
- Removal of all shared exercise equipment and other items from the pool area. To minimize risk of exposure, members are not allowed to bring personal exercise equipment to the center.
- Face masks will be worn by all UNC Wellness Center employees.
- During electrical storms, all members will be asked to leave the aquatics area and the building immediately.
- Sani-cloth disinfectant wipes will be available on each lap lane bench for members to use to wipe down benches before and after use. These wipes meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.