



Oelwein Family Aquatic Center

As of today the Iowa Department of Public Health and the CDC has given very little guidance on parameters of running an aquatic facility concerning the COVID-19 virus. We are constantly monitoring their sites for new information but they have not given any updates other than pushing the dates back keeping these facilities closed. I have sat in on several online meetings with park and rec directors across the state and we all have the same questions and concerns about openings. The consensus with our regional meeting on Thursday is that most towns are shooting for June 15th for an opening date for their pools if they can open.

Main points:

- Establish capacity
- Signage
- Controlling Access
- Determine how Distancing Will be Monitored and Enforced
- Staffing
- PPE
- Cleaning and Maintenance
- Children
- Competitive Swimming
- Guest Hygiene
- EAP
- Food Service
- Locker Rooms
- Member/Guest communication

The City provides lifesaving water skills that children will utilize the rest of their lives at this great facility. This is the worst scenario for professionals in this field. We collectively try to get as many people to put their electronic devices down to get out and participate in our facilities and participate in rec programming. Many factors will need to be considered in making the decision on whether to open the facility or leave it shut for the year. The City must decide if it is worth the health and financial risk to this community in opening this facility. The City has reached out to past season pass holders and most replied that they would be in favor if the pool opened. In this decision, we must also consider the health and risk the lifeguards, staff and citizens would be putting themselves at to operate this season. I have worked extensively these past few weeks to collect and provide as much information and bring up as many questions so that you can make the best-informed decision about the future of the Oelwein Family Aquatic Facility. The facility is currently ready to fill if decided and chemicals are lined up as well.



CDC.GOV

CDC parameters – to be released third week of May, major concerns:

1. Distancing of 6' or greater
2. Facemask usage – everyone except those in water
3. Increase frequency of disinfecting in high touch areas
4. Lifeguards responsible for watching pool area, not monitoring social distancing

Can the virus that causes COVID-19 spread through pools, hot tubs, spas, and water play areas?

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. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) of these facilities should inactivate the virus in the water. While there is [ongoing community spread](#) of COVID-19 of the virus that causes COVID-19, it is important for individuals as well as owners and operators of these facilities to take steps to ensure health and safety:

- Everyone should follow local and state guidance that may determine when and how recreational water facilities may operate.
- Individuals should continue to [protect themselves and others](#) at recreational water venues both in and out of the water – for example, by practicing social distancing and good hand hygiene.
- In addition to ensuring water safety and quality, owners and operators of community pools, hot tubs, spas, and water play areas should follow the [interim guidance for businesses and employers](#) for cleaning and disinfecting their community facilities.

Guidance for Reopening Buildings after Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation

The temporary shutdown or reduced operation of a building and reductions in normal water use can create hazards for returning occupants. Two potential microbial hazards that should be considered prior to reopening after a period of building inactivity are [mold](#) and [Legionella](#) (the cause of Legionnaires' disease). For mold, a "prolonged period" may be **days, weeks, or months** depending upon building-specific factors, season, and weather variables.¹ For *Legionella*, a "prolonged period" may be **weeks or months** depending on plumbing-specific factors, disinfectant residuals, water heater temperature set points, water usage patterns, and preexisting *Legionella* colonization.² Note that additional hazards, outside of those discussed in this document, may exist for returning occupants. These can include other microbial hazards, such as [non-tuberculous mycobacteria](#), changes in water chemistry that lead to corrosion, leaching of metals (such as lead) into stagnant water, disinfection by-products, and sewer gases that enter buildings through dry sanitary sewer drain traps.

Iowa Department of Public Health

- 05-13-2020 Governors proclamation:

Until May 27th at 11:59 pm, all pools and spas, wading pools, waterslides, wave pools, spray pads, and bathhouses, as defined in Iowa Code 135I.1 shall continue to be closed.



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Precautions:

Front Desk Employees

- Wear masks and gloves at all time
- Wipe down all counters and register on a usage basis
- Mark out spots on floor for social distancing
- Track number of patrons that will be limited to state specifications
- Do not allow patrons to touch counters
- Clear plastic guard in place to limit exposure

Shower House

- Shower areas would be disinfected at beginning, during and at the end of day
- Lockers would be off limits to patrons
- Toilets and sinks and shower controls would need to be constantly disinfected
- Limit toilet paper to one roll per stall
- Down guard would constantly go through showers to disinfect
- Markings on floor for direction of flow
- Offer outside showers

Guards

- Guard room would need to be disinfected before/after/ and during shift
- Leave all lounge chairs and deck chairs in storage
- Wear masks and gloves when completing morning and evening chores
- Wear masks until arrive at elevated guard station
- Leave cleaning supplies at each chair to disinfect
- Sanitize rescue tubes every rotation, assign tube to lifeguard per shift
- Lifeguards wear masks to chairs/not while on chairs

Swim Team

- If even have season
- Trainings with team leaders
- Social distancing and sanitizing measures enforced

Trainings – two weeks

- COVID-19 basics with all employees
- Cleaning/ wearing PPE
- Have several weekly staff meetings to reduce the number of employees gathering
- Red Cross guidelines
- Blended learning for guards for limited contact
- Utilize BVM masks for rescues
- Hospital EMT training
- Red Cross defaulting to states for distancing measures



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- CPR portions in person, not online preference for new guards
- IPDH/Red Cross who's guidelines do you follow
- Lifeguards considered essential so can get certified as first responders

Concessions

- Wear gloves and mask at all times
- Disinfect all surfaces before, during and after shifts
- Keep patrons away from counter to pay
- Place markings on floors to show distancing/ arrows on floor to direct traffic.
- Order at north window, pick up food at south window
- If open, limit food to single wrapped items
- Empty refuse numerous times during the day
- Reduce number of tables/eliminate
- Need additional staff to clean area THEN disinfect
- Sanitize gloves after every transaction

Facility

- Eliminate slide, diving boards, tiki hut due to so many common areas for disinfecting
- Need additional staff to police social distancing - adults
- Markings on deck to guide flow of patrons
- Signage posted in proper locations
- Hand sanitizing stations at all entrances
- Social distancing and proper techniques posted throughout facility
- Everyone on the deck will be required to wear a mask-CDC
 - Patrons take off mask when enter pool
 - Lifeguards need masks on elevated chair?
 - In 90 degree weather it is going to get extremely hot
 - Guards will pull down masks to cool off and expose themselves
 - Lower oxygen levels, bad to wear a mask for hours
 - Distraction of mask-will need to rotate head more for full view of area
 - Whistle usage issue with a mask on
 - Pull mask off when jump in for rescue, then exposed
- Disinfect the deck area constantly
- Limit numbers of admission to ensure proper distancing during breaks
- No toys/inflatables

Lessons/Programming

- Limit size of lessons
- Training with instructors
- Constant reminder of patrons rules of distancing
- Do not open to open swim
- Lap swim and lessons
- Family lessons-parent/child



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Season Passes

- Offer season passes
 - Short season if school bumps up start date
 - Do season pass holders have priority
- Only offer daily admission will create increased handling money
- Utilize 1-2 week passes instead

Pump Room

- Wear gloves and mask into pump room
- Limit area to certain staff members
- Disinfect after each use

Season

- School start date is set at August 25th for now
- Are we taking away a ton of PPE from community to open this facility?
- Heavily reduced income do to restrictions, is it worth financial and health risk of opening?
 - Normal pool capacity 625
- If not open for public
 - Fill pool regardless, to protect facility
 - Fill pool for month to keep equipment moving/up to date
 - Can you promise social distancing – no
 - Prepare public if fill and not open
 - Heavy financial losses due to very limited numbers of patrons
 - Extra staff, PPE to disinfect facility
 - Liability of filling pool with it not staffed
 - Limit on number of people to let in
 - Numbers allowed in showers, front area, pool deck, pool
 - If have weather emergency (severe lightning storm), limited to how many people you can have in safe area
 - Concerns:
 - Leaving pumps sit idle for two years
 - Shell cracking due to sun with not water to protect, estimated 60k for new shell plaster
 - Joints/valves drying
 - Oelwein facility does not completely drain; the pool is designed to hold water through winter to keep diving well from heaving in spring with the frost coming out of the ground.
 - Disease incubating in piping that will get hot with no water
 - Legionnaires disease
 - Shigellosis
 - Cryptosporidiosis
 - Youth using lakes and streams to go swimming unsupervised – possibility of more drownings
 - Social distancing at breaks/during rescue events



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Options: School start date is set at August 25th for now, could change

Opening

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Open the facility for Memorial Day Weekend | 12 weeks |
| • Continue on schedule and fill week of May 18 th | |
| 2. Open the facility June 15 th | 10 weeks |
| • Fill now and wait until June 15 th to open | |
| • Open for season | |
| • Drain or leave water in until Aug. if don't open | |
| 3. Open facility June 29 th for July 4 th week | 8 weeks |
| • Fill June 15 th for chemical and trainings | |
| 4. Open facility to just complete swim lessons/lap swim | 6 weeks |
| 5. Open concessions or not at all | |

Not Opening

1. Leave the facility as is and not fill – surface may bubble/crack \$60k shell to replace (See Picture)
2. Fill it and run it for 12 weeks with bare minimum of chemical
 - No heater
3. Fill it and run it for a month then drain
 - No heater
4. If we fill and do not open, we will have to be proactive about blowback from public seeing the filled pool and not being able to get in it.

Full operational chemicals and utilities

- \$4-6k Hydrochloric acid – used to keep pool water pH in balance
- \$8-9k Chlorine/Stabilizer/Sunscreen/Shock
- \$25k Gas/electricity – varies depending on weather

Right now – other communities

- Grinnell Filling just to protect
 - Sioux City Filling in next 2 weeks, won't open at least into June
 - North Liberty Plan to fill and circulate by end of month to see if open
 - Orange City Ready to fill
 - Mason City Power washing not filling
 - West Union Power washed waiting to see if can open
 - Norwalk Cleaning and prepping in case open
 - Oelwein Power washed waiting to see if can open
 - Osceola Not Opening
 - Mason City Not Opening
 - Sergeant Bluff Not Opening
 - Waukon Recommending to not open for season
 - Vinton June 15th, in can't then July 1, then won't after that
 - Cedar Rapids Not Opening
- Talked with most surrounding communities our size – Most shooting for June 15th opening if they can.



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Swim Team

- Other communities are strongly urging not to hold a swim team season this year

Jeanne Berg – Swim team Coach

The Big Six club as a whole had a discussion recently. We all would like to have some kind of a season if possible even if it is a short one. USA swim meets have been suspended until May 30th. If this is extended, then our season will not happen. We also are all waiting to see what our local pools will be doing.

Thanks for reaching out to me. Jeanne

Pool left dry for season: Diamond Brite – same surface as the Oelwein Pool.

- I contacted diamond brite directly and asked them on the issue of filling the pool or not. They agreed with the pool companies that we need to fill the pool otherwise it will dry and crack under the heat of the sun.



Somewhere in Wisconsin



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Staff to run facility:

- We usually only have one person running concessions
- Front desk – one person can still handle this position
- Guards -
 - Normally we have 8 guards on rotation
 - One down guard (for emergencies) and manager – total of 10

11 People

COVID-19

- \$8.75 x 40 x 12 = \$4,320 per guard
- One person at the front desk
- Three people in concessions selling individually wrapped product,
 - One taking money
 - One handing out food at second window
 - One ensuring social distancing and sanitizing
- Guards:
 - Elimination of slide and playground area frees up 3 guards
- 5 guards on rotation/one down guard and a manager
- One adult supervising social distancing on deck – guards cannot properly scan their pool areas and make sure people are social distancing at the same time.
- One person sanitizing deck areas/helping with distancing – down guard would be this person
- Two people sanitizing bathrooms. 1 female 1 male
- One person checking individuals at front door and sanitizing the area
- One person checking social distancing and sanitizing concessions area

15 People

Workers

- Lisa Nolan has been in contact with potential guards asking if they would feel comfortable, working and they all said yes. This week Lisa told the potential guards to confer with their parents and they are still ready to go to work with support of their parents. One person said their parents would not let them work and that guard is not counted below.
- Lisa has 21 individuals ready to work
 - 9 certified guards
 - 2 need recertification
 - 5 to be certified
 - 5 front desk/concessions
 - Manager and 2 assistants
 - **24 total employees**



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Capacity

- Normal capacity of the pool facility is 625 people
- If we have a weather emergency and need to get everyone inside in the shower rooms, we can fit the following with 6' social distancing:
 - Men's room 15
 - Women's room 15
 30 – 12 staff members = 18 patrons
- 60 people can be on deck with 6' distancing

Restrictions

- We already restrict children 7 and under, have to be supervised with an adult
 - Limit to 14 and over
- Cannot discriminate denying anyone from outside of community coming in and using facility

Aquatic Center (Pool)		
Description	Detail	Amount
American Red Cross / Learn-to-Swim Classes		\$30.00
Private Lessons		\$50.00
Passes		
	Family Pass	\$120.00 up to 5 persons, \$5.00 for each add'l family member
	Single Pass	\$60.00
	Child season Pass	\$40.00
	Nany Pass	\$40.00
Daily Admissions:		
	Infant Daily Pass 0-6	\$1.00
	Student Daily Pass 7-17	\$3.00
	Adult Daily Pass 18+	\$3.00
Facility Reservations:		
Current Pool Party Prices – Including Water Slide		
1 Hour Pool Party	1-100	\$130.00
1 Hour Pool Party	100+	\$170.00
2 Hour Pool Party	1-100	\$150.00
2 Hour Pool Party	200+	\$190.00

Joshua Johnson MA
Oelwein Park Superintendent

