

Management and the Pool Season 2021 Working Group have prepared a list of frequently asked questions regarding the upcoming pool season. Some of the answers below may be refined as we get further guidance from local , state, and federal authorities.

POOL SEASON 2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS as of March 18, 2021

1. What has changed since last year that has added to the optimism toward opening pools this year?

This year the pool operators and industry attorneys are advising that the Assumption of risk doctrine affords some level of protection. While the insurance industry has not developed an insurance program against COVID-19 liability and that liability has not been limited with legislation, the biggest difference this year from last is that the pool operators (as an industry) are not seeking indemnification from associations or their unit owners in 2021. Both Premier Aquatics and the Association will ask unit owners to acknowledge in writing that they are aware of and agree to assume the risks associated with using the swimming pools during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

2. What will residents need to do to use the swimming pools this year?

a. Acknowledgment of Assumption of Risk: Residents will be asked by Premier Aquatics and the Association to certify in writing once at the beginning of the season their awareness of the heightened risks posed by COVID-19 while using the swimming pools this year and that they are willing to assume responsibility for those risks.

b. Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 Screening Survey: Residents will be asked to review and respond if they have had one or more of the 9 symptoms identified on the Virginia Department of Health Screening Survey.

c. What about temperature checks? No. Presence of a new fever (over 100.4) or a sense of a fever is the first question in the Virginia Department of Health Screening Survey (Above) so physical temperature checks are not required.

3. Will masks be required?

Yes. Masks will be required at all times while in the pool area except while swimming. Social distancing will be expected inside the pool area and while waiting to enter.

4. Will bathrooms be open?

Yes. Arlington County and City of Alexandria codes require access to bathrooms and drinking fountains. As an added level of safety, we will recommend that residents bring their own water and only use the bathrooms if necessary.

5. Who will do the health checks, sanitation, and additional cleaning at the pools?

The lifeguard cannot perform these duties AND always keep eyes on the pool. In our single-guard pools, an additional staff person will perform these duties. Management is reviewing staffing options including using existing staff, adding janitorial staff, and adding Premier Aquatics staff. Sanitation of all touch surfaces in the pool area (including bathrooms) will be done twice daily.

6. Will this additional staff add to the operational costs?

Yes, this additional labor will add to the operational costs. There will also be additional cleaning supply costs.

7. How will pool occupancy be controlled?

The Association will use an on-line reservation system. Reservations will be offered in one-hour increments, allowing for 45 minutes of swimming followed by 15 minutes of water testing, cleaning, and sanitation. Pools will be divided into areas so that household members of up to 5 people can swim together and still safely distance from other residents. Residents can make reservations at any of the pools or wading pools based on availability. The Commonwealth of Virginia requires 10ft. of social distance while in the pool area. Due to limited availability of reservation times, no guests will be allowed this season.

8. What about pool furniture?

Association counsel advised that eliminating the use of the common furniture would minimize exposure risks and lessen cleaning costs. Pool furniture has not been banned by government authorities; however, the strict cleaning and disinfecting requirements imposed on pool operators apply to pool furniture. Pool furniture may not be available this year and residents will be encouraged to bring their own. Sunbathing at the pools is not encouraged, as we hope residents will use the reservations for swimming.

9. Will wading pools be available for reservation?

Yes. Hourly reservations will be available for wading pools at pool 1,2,3,4 and 6.

10. Will lap-swimming lanes be available for reservation?

Yes. As the designated lap pool, Pool two (2) will have four (3) lap lanes available for reservation hourly with one person per lane. The lane along the side with stairs can be reserved for open swimming. Pool five(5) will have one dedicated lap lane at all times . Regular usage assessments will be done at all the pools and adjustments may be made to the schedules and type of use.