

Oakleigh Forest Civic Association Pool

Dear Oakleigh Forest Pool Members

Thank you for joining us for the 2021 swim season at the OFCA Pool.

Below you will find a list of FAQs intended to inform you of the COVID-19 guidelines for operations during the 2021 swim season. This document shall supplement our existing pool rules but where there is a conflict, this document shall be followed. Until formal guidance is issued for the 2021 swim season, this document assures we adhere to the MDH Secretary's order signed 06/10/2020 for the operation of an outdoor swimming pool. We will continue to monitor the guidelines issued by the department of health and update our guidelines for operations accordingly.

If you have any questions please email us at ofcapool@gmail.com.

Thank you

Anne O'Grady on behalf of the OFCA Pool Board.

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What should I do if I or my family members are sick?

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. In line with screening recommendations from the Maryland State Department of Health (MDH), we ask that you DO NOT come to the OFCA Pool if you answer YES to any of the following questions:

1. Have you developed ANY of the following symptoms of COVID-19 infection in the last ten (10) days?
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Unusual headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
2. Have you had a positive test for COVID-19 infection in the last ten (10) days?
3. Within the last ten (10) days, have you been within six (6) feet for longer than 15 minutes with someone who has suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection, WITHOUT taking proper precautions like wearing a mask and frequently washing your hands during this contact period?

Who is responsible for enforcing the COVID-19 prevention requirements at pools?

The licensed pool owner (Oakleigh Forest Community) is responsible for complying with all State and local operating requirements and compliance with applicable Executive and Secretary Orders. As OFCA pool members we all play a role here. We ask that all members do their part to ensure compliance. Please review these FAQs in full and ensure you understand the expectations. All members must sign an indemnity waiver prior to using the OFCA Pool.

What can I do to protect myself and others from the spread of COVID-19?

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid handshaking, hugging and other intimate greetings
- Stay at home when you are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then discard the tissue in the trash

What is the operating capacity of our pool under the current health department guidelines?

According to the MDH Secretary's order signed 06/10/2020, outdoor pools may have no more than one person in the water for every 36 square feet of pool surface area. One person per 36

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square feet (6' x 6') allows for proper social distancing in the water. The OFCA pool surface area is 2400 square feet. The **in pool** capacity for the OFCA pool for the 2020 season will be capped at 65 people. We will adopt a color coded flag system to ensure members can easily tell the capacity range we are operating within as follows,

- **GREEN FLAG: 0 - 40 swimmers**
- **YELLOW FLAG: 41-55 swimmers**
- **RED FLAG: 56-65 swimmers**

When a red flag is raised we ask that NO NEW swimmers enter the water. Swimmers waiting to enter must wait for a return to a yellow flag status before entering. We ask that parents ensure their children understand these rules before using the OFCA Pool.

The deck and pavilion are considered separate to the in pool capacity. For the deck and pavilion areas, we are required to ensure that the layout in standing or seating areas facilitates individuals or household groups remaining at least 6 feet apart.

The total capacity for the OFCA Pool to include in pool, on deck and in the pavilion will be capped at 100 people. We will track and monitor this capacity through our sign in and sign out process.

How will I know if I am following the requirements for Social Distancing?

While the current restrictions are in place, you will notice a few changes to the furniture layout on the deck and under the pavilion at the OFCA pool.

- We will be limiting the number of loungers available for use and we ask that you do not add any additional loungers to the deck area. We have added non slip tape to provide guidance on how the lounge pairs should be positioned and we ask that you do not move or combine any furniture.
- We have a number of designated family zones along the front of the pavilion for families who would like to bring their own furniture to the pool. We ask that you stay within the marked areas to ensure 6ft of space between households. Please remove all belongings when leaving the pool.
- We have positioned a number of picnic tables under the pavilion and a few on the deck. These are positioned to ensure 6ft of spacing between households and cannot be moved.
- We ask that you DO NOT set up in any area within the pool fence that does not have OFCA Pool furniture or a marked out family zone.
- There are a number of picnic areas outside the boundaries of the pool fence. Please note, the areas outside of the fence are not controlled or monitored by the OFCA pool but we ask that families are respectful to those around them and ensure at least 6ft of social distancing space.

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Will we be able to use the pool like always when we open?

We believe that even with the current capacity restrictions and social distancing requirements, families will be able to enjoy the OFCA pool as much as possible in a safe and fair manner. We have evaluated many options on how best to manage our in pool capacity numbers along with the deck social distancing requirements and we believe, based on a successful 2020 swim season, that we can successfully, safely and fairly operate our pool without implementing a “swim block” system. We will adjust our approach if and as needed. We are asking the following of our members to ensure we can have a great pool season ...

- We ask that except when in use, you do not remove the hand sanitizer or disinfectant cleaners from the stations we have set up at the entrance, in the bathrooms and at the pavilion. These items are required by the MDH for pool member use in order to keep everyone safe and to promote good hand hygiene and furniture cleaning practices.
- Please ensure you sign in and out EVERY time you enter and leave the fenced pool area. A copy of the sign in/out procedure can be found at the entry to the pool.
- We will be using a flag system as outlined above to ensure members can easily tell what capacity range we are operating at. Please pay attention to this throughout the day and ensure your children understand the rules. If we are sitting at a red level for the duration of a “kids swim” and you have been enjoying the pool for a substantial part of the day, we ask that you consider taking a break to allow other families an opportunity to swim and enjoy the facility.
- We will have a limited number of sun loungers set up. There are two sun loungers per zone. We ask that you do not bring additional sun loungers on to the deck. We also ask that you do not move any of the sun loungers from their designated zones. In order to use the sun loungers we ask that at least one of the members be over 18.
- We are designating a number of areas for families who wish to bring their own furniture for use at the pool. Please ensure you stay within the marked out zones. Please do not set up in areas that have not been marked.
- We will not be providing any toys, kick boards, pool noodles, etc. Any items like this should be brought to the pool by the member and then removed when leaving. NO items may remain at the pool. Any remaining items may be discarded at the end of the day.
- It is recommended by the MDH that ...
 - Members should stay at least 6 feet apart (both in and out of the water) from other individuals not from their household.
 - Members should wear face coverings when interacting with staff or other individuals not from their household.
 - Members are discouraged from sharing objects that are difficult to clean, sanitize, or disinfect or that are meant to come in contact with the face (for example, goggles, nose clips, and snorkels).
 - Members are discouraged from sharing items such as food, equipment, toys, and supplies with those they don't live with.
- We are encouraging the use of the picnic areas outside of the pool fence for those members who wish to take a break from swimming for a longer period when the pool is

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busy. We want to ensure those who wish to swim or be near their younger children have an opportunity to do so.

- In order to be in compliance with the MDH directive, **when leaving the pool we ask that you disinfect the furniture you were using.** A guideline for how to disinfect the furniture along with the items required can be found at each of the stations we have set up at the entrance, in the bathrooms and at the pavilion. We ask that you follow the guideline and remember to return the disinfectant spray as soon as you finish cleaning so it is available for the next member.
- When leaving the pool we ask that you check you have ALL your belongings. Please check for towels, goggles, pool toys and other items. Any remaining items may be discarded at the end of the day.

Do I have to sign in to use the pool?

Yes, both **signing in and signing out** of the OFCA Pool are required for the 2021 season. A copy of the sign in/out procedure can be found at the entry to the pool. It is critical that we track the individual names, time in and time out for ALL members and guests using the OFCA Pool. This information must be tracked for two primary reasons:

1. This will enable us to monitor our facility attendance throughout the day to ensure we are operating within our capacity constraints.
2. If required this information will be used to support contact tracing efforts.

Do I have to wear a mask while at the pool?

In line with the CDC, the MDH recommends that members should wear face coverings when interacting with staff or other individuals not from their household. Face coverings are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. Please note, **DO NOT WEAR A MASK WHILE YOU ARE IN THE WATER.**

What about the baby pool?

According to the MDH Secretary's order signed 06/10/2020, baby pools are no longer restricted from opening. However, we did not receive any formal guidance from the MDH on how to open baby pools and remain in compliance with social distancing and cleaning requirements. Until we receive clear guidance we will not be opening our baby pool for use but we will continue to ensure our baby pool is fully operational in the event that we receive clear guidance. For the duration of time the baby pool remains closed, children under 2 years of age and children wearing swim diapers will be allowed in the main pool. **Please note that we are requiring members with children in swim diapers use [a Splash About Swim Diaper](#) in order to minimize the risk of any diaper leakages.** In the event of fecal contamination, the OFCA pool will be closed in accordance with Health Department regulations. As a reminder, a parent/guardian must closely watch children at all times and must accompany a non-swimmer in the water within arm's reach at all times. This policy is subject to review and may be revoked at any time during the season.

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Can pool restrooms and shower facilities be used?

Yes, members may still use indoor restrooms and shower facilities. We ask that people do not congregate around the restrooms or shower facilities. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned at least twice per day. Floors, toilets, sinks and showers will be cleaned daily. Soap and hand sanitizer will be provided for your use. We ask that you bring your own soap for use in the shower.

Can I bring guests to the OFCA pool this year?

Guests are welcome at the OFCA pool this year with some modifications to our existing policy:

- Guests are NOT permitted during the opening (5/29-5/31) and closing (9/4-9/6) weekends of the 2021 swim season. The OFCA board will advise you should additional blackout dates be required during the season.
- Guest passes are required EVERY day. ALL guests MUST sign in and out per pool procedures. A copy of the sign in/out procedure can be found at the entry to the pool.
- No more than 5 guests per pool member household are permitted at any time. For additional guests over 5 please refer to our policies on small or private parties on our website <https://www.oakleighforest.org/pool.html>
- A guest pass is required for non-swimmers as well as swimmers.
- Guests must be accompanied at all times by the same pool member for the duration of their visit.
- Oakleigh Forest residents who are non-pool members may not use the pool as a guest of any pool member.
- Long-term houseguests of members are NOT considered members of the household for pool membership purposes. These guests must also use guest passes.
- Families and Individuals renting a house in Oakleigh Forest may not utilize the pool as guests under any circumstances.
- The guest pass policy may not be used to provide regular access to the pool for guests. Such guests must be encouraged to become non-resident pool members by their pool member host/hostess.
- Additional guest passes can be purchased (10 passes for \$20) from the pool board at any time. Please email us with any questions at ofcapool@gmail.com

As always, our guest pass system will continue to operate as an HONOR system to ensure our pool continues to be the excellent facility our members enjoy. Additional passes may be purchased during the season as required. This policy is subject to review and may be revoked at any time during the season.

Might there be changes to the new normal as the summer progresses?

To make pool usage safe and equitable, we may have to make changes to our operations as the summer progresses. We will continue to monitor the way the pool is operating and work to optimize the pool experience for all members. Remember, we are considering everyone's health first and will operate within the parameters and guidelines provided by state and local health

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departments. The first few weeks will more likely than not come with some trial and error and please know that we are trying our best and there is no ideal solution for this situation. We appreciate your feedback and request your patience as we navigate this new normal.

Where can I learn more about the MDH or CDC guidelines pertaining to the operation of pools?

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OEHFP/CHS/Pages/AquaticFacility.aspx>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=oxCb7vJj9Ek&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>