



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Nebraska Pool Owners and Operators

**THRU:** Steven M. Goans, Deputy Director *SM Goans*  
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

Shelley Schneider, Division Administrator *SS*  
Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

**FROM:** Tom Buell, Section Supervisor *TB*  
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**Date:** June 17, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Updated Indoor/Outdoor Pool Guidelines and Recommendations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The purpose of this memo is to provide updated guidance for pools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Patron Load/Capacity

Effective June 22, 2020, the Directed Health Measures (DHM) for the 89 counties currently in Phase II will be moving into Phase III, which will allow up to 75% of occupancy for outdoor pools and 50% of occupancy for indoor pools. The remaining four counties, Hall, Hamilton, Merrick, and Dakota, will move into Phase II. Phase II allows for up to 25 patrons or 25% of occupancy for pools, whichever is greater. The Department utilizes the patron load for occupancy. Patron load does not include staff. The patron load should be located on the "Pool Regulations" sign. If the pool doesn't have a patron load number, or if you believe the patron load to be incorrect, you can calculate the patron load using the criteria in Title 178, Chapter 4, 006.04. If a pool would like to use the "additional area allowance", per 006.04D, they must submit it as a project to the Department's engineering section.

As the DHMs are revised, Pool Owners and Operators should pay attention to the allowed occupancy rate and adjust accordingly. The most current information on DHMs in each county may be found at: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>.

### Lifeguard Certification

As described in the Department's March 23 and April 15, 2020 memos, existing lifeguards were provided an extension for lifeguard certification until August 30, 2020, and CPR was given an

extension to June 30, 2020. The Department is providing an additional extension through December 31, 2020, for existing lifeguards that take an online CPR refresher course.

For new lifeguards requiring certification, please contact one of the Department's approved certifying organizations (i.e. American Red Cross, National Pool and Water Park Lifeguard Training Program, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, American Aquatics and Safety Training, Lifeguard Pro, Lifeguard University, Aquatic Training Institute, and Starfish Aquatics Institute). These are the only organizations that are approved to offer lifeguard certification in Nebraska. The Department considers lifeguard training as a critical function for public safety. All approved lifeguard certification providers must include a water-rescue element as part of the training. The Department is deferring to the provider as to the best way to conduct this training while ensuring public and student safety. Some potential options are: mannequins, full-face snorkel masks, or to use a family member as the rescue victim. If these options aren't available, or the provider doesn't believe they will efficiently train the lifeguard, the provider may use someone else for the rescue. Local Health Departments may also be able to offer creative solutions to the water-rescue portion of the certification.

If you have any questions please contact the Department at 402-471-8283.