Guiding Principles:

- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic is constantly evolving based on the available information and local disease activity.
- It is important to remember, as swimming facilities phase into reopening to the public, that COVID-19 has not been eradicated and that hygiene best practices and social distancing practices must be maintained in order to help prevent a resurgence in new COVID-19 cases from occurring.
- This guidance was developed based on the Rockford Region Rebounding assessment, expertise of the Workgroup.
- Winnebago County will continue to adhere to the Restore Illinois, Executive Orders, and guidance/rules issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Swimming facilities must comply with the equitable local municipal ordinances.

Bathers Guidelines:

- Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette
  - Encouraging all bathers to wash their hands often and cover their coughs and sneezes.
- Cloth Face Coverings
  - Encouraging the use of cloth face coverings as feasible and/or maintain the six foot social distancing space. Face coverings are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
    - Advise those wearing face coverings to not wear them in the water. Cloth face coverings can be difficult to breathe through when they are wet.
- Staying Home
  - Educating bathers about when to stay home (for example, if they have symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days) and when they can safely end their home isolation.
- Adequate Supplies
  - Ensuring adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene. Supplies include soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, and no-touch trash cans.
- Signs and Messages
  - Posting signs about how to stop the spread of COVID-19, properly wash hands, promote everyday protective measures, and properly use cloth face coverings in highly visible locations (for example, at deck entrances and at sinks).
  - Broadcasting regular announcements about how to stop the spread on PA system.
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- Consider including messaging about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 in contracts with individual patrons or households, in emails, on facility websites (for example, posting online videos), through facility's social media accounts, and on entrance tickets.

  - Shared Objects
    - Discouraging people from sharing items 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).
    - Discouraging the sharing of items such as food, equipment, toys, and supplies with those they do not live with.
    - Ensuring adequate equipment for patrons and swimmers, such as kick boards and pool noodles, to minimize sharing to the extent possible, or limiting use of equipment by one group of users at a time and cleaning and disinfecting between uses.

Swimming Facility Areas:

- The maximum capacity for pools is 50% of the bather load.
- Water slides and lazy rivers must have an approved COVID-19 plan of operation.
- Operators should have in person health screenings of employees and patrons as they enter the facilities.
- Post signage at entryway stating bathers should not enter with a fever or symptoms of COVID-19. Most common signs of illness are fever over 100°F, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, body aches, sore throat, recent loss of taste or smell.
- Provide hand sanitizer at entry and cashier stations.
- Outdoor lounging areas must ensure six feet social distancing between chairs.
  - For safety of bathers using restrooms, the door to the changing rooms should be propped open.
  - Restrooms are to be cleaned and disinfected hourly.
- Limit number of bathers waiting in line to maintain social distancing of a minimum six (6) feet. Consider asking bathers to give a phone number to call when there is room for them on the pool deck. Ask the bathers to wait in their cars.
- Space lounge chairs a minimum of six (6) feet apart.
- Live music or entertainment is permitted with social distancing.

- Whenever possible use cashless, touchless and pay ahead methods. If tableside payment device is used it must be sanitized in the presence of the bather before and after use.
Encourage bathers to wear face coverings when not seated in their lounge chairs and have signage requesting use of masks.

Operators, employees and patrons must wear masks as appropriate.

Water fountains, except for touch-less water bottle refill stations should be made unavailable for use. Turn off, cover or block the fountain.

Personnel:

- Screen staff at the start of each shift for illness. Utilize FDA mandated employee illness policy.
  - Promptly notify Winnebago County Health Department of COVID-19 within employees or patrons to 815.720.4050.
  - Maintain records to assist prompt identification of potential exposures in employees and patrons.
- Provide face coverings to staff and require staff to wear them when interacting with patrons and each other.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- If an establishment has not been operational since the Executive Order to Stay Home:
  - Flush all water fixtures (both hot and cold) for 15 to 30 minutes. Flush any beverage equipment lines. Empty and clean ice machines. These procedures will protect against waterborne illnesses.
  - Clean and sanitize all food contact and non-food contact surfaces.
    - Use hot soapy water, rinse the soap residue.
    - Sanitize/disinfect with an EPA registered and approved sanitizer/disinfectant as directed on the container.
      - EPA registered bleach cleaner: 1 tablespoon to 1 gallon of water for food contact surfaces
      - 1/3 cup to 1 gallon of water for non-food contact surfaces (bleach can discolor some surfaces at high concentrations).
- Disinfect lounge chairs, seating surfaces, buoys, rafts, floatation devices of every kind between bathers.
- Clean and disinfect bathhouse fixtures hourly. Maintain cleaning logs visible to the bathers.
- Ensure that soap dispensers and paper towels are monitored and stocked on an hourly basis during bathhouse checks.
- Disinfect commonly-touched surfaces hourly. These include but are not limited to credit card machine key pads, door handles, cashier counters, bathroom stall doors, sink handles, hand rails etc.
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- Have hand sanitizer readily available for bathers and employees.
- Overall nightly cleaning and disinfection should be done in the morning to give airborne particulate matter time to settle (a minimum of 3 to 4 hours).

- Cleaning and Disinfection
  - Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects each time they are used. For example:
    - Handrails, slides, and structures for climbing or playing
    - Lounge chairs, tabletops, pool noodles, and kickboards
    - Door handles and surfaces of restrooms, handwashing stations, diaper-changing stations, and showers
    - If towels are provided, launder between bather uses.
    - For pools that are available to patrons with a key, provide a sign stating that the facility is cleaned daily. Sanitizer should be provided for patrons to use on their own.

- Department of Commerce and Economic Development. [https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx](https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Pages/RestoreILP3.aspx).
- Winnebago County Health Department. Available at [www.wchd.org](http://www.wchd.org).