Phase II Initial guidelines for pools

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) is finalizing emergency regulations regarding the operation of all public pools, including pools at condominium and apartment complexes. In addition to existing rules and regulations about the licensing of aquatic venues (216-RICR-50-05-4), expected additional requirements will include:

- Occupancy limits of any aquatic venue will be 15 people at maximum, including lifeguards and attendants. Generally speaking, the occupancy limit will be determined by the square footage of the surface area of the pool and allows each person to maintain a physical distance of six feet.
- Each facility must post signs indicating reduced capacity limits.
- Bodies of water licensed as "spas" (also called hot tubs, therapeutic pools and whirlpools), communal saunas, and steam rooms must remain closed.
- Each aquatic venue must have an Operations Plan that includes descriptions of how water quality will be maintained, how the facility will be operated, and making staff and visitors aware of all aspects of the Plan.
- Restrooms and single-occupancy showers must remain open, soap dispensers must be stocked, and single-occupancy showers must be sanitized between uses. Communal showers are prohibited.
- Cloth face coverings shall be worn by all staff and visitors in compliance with current Executive Orders. Cloth face coverings should not be worn while in the pool. Swimmers must store their cloth face coverings while they are in the pool so that no one else has access to their face covering.
- If aquatic venues decide to provide equipment that is shared (floats, swim noodles, life jackets), they must be sanitized between use. Visitors are allowed to bring their own equipment, and they must take it with them when they leave.
- Staff at aquatic venues will screen visitors in accordance with the general business guidance posted on reopeningri.com and assure that all visitors maintain the proper physical distance at all times.
- Aquatic venues will be required to comply with Rhode Island requirements for operating under the COVID crisis, as well as CDC requirements for aquatic venues.
- Aquatic venues that are within condominium and apartment complexes must provide RIDOH with designated points of contact for the facility and must provide a plan to assure an attendant is on duty at all times the pool is open.