

# Water Recreation Facility FAQs

## When can locker rooms fully reopen?

[WAC 246-260](#), which regulates swimming pools, requires that shower facilities be provided at general use swimming pools, and bathers are expected to take showers before they get in the water. That being said, physical distancing, the use of face-coverings, and frequent cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces are very important for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in locker rooms and shower areas. Follow the guidelines under the [Personal Hygiene and Environmental Hygiene sections](#) of the document as applicable.

However, for businesses and organizations in Phase 2 without any type of water recreation facilities, the following areas will be closed: showers, saunas and steam rooms. Locker rooms must be limited to hand washing and restrooms only, or as required for use of a water recreation facility authorized under the [Staffed Water Recreation Facilities COVID-19 Requirements](#) and [DOH's guidance](#).

For Phase 3 businesses and organizations, locker rooms with showers are allowed, but saunas and steam rooms must remain closed.

In all phases, facilities must encourage and post signage about minimizing time spent in the locker room. If the facility provides any service that falls under personal services, such as tanning beds, then they must follow the [Phase 2 and Phase 3 Personal Services Providers COVID-19 Requirements](#).

## When can hot tubs (general use spa pools regulated under [chapter 246-260 WAC](#)) and saunas reopen?

Modified Phase 1: Hot tubs are not allowed to open.

Phase 2: Hot tubs are allowed to open if they are classified according to [chapter 246-260 WAC](#) as general use spa pools and meet all the conditions in this [guidance](#). See under "Phase Specific Requirements" for more details.

Phases 3: All hot tubs are allowed to open. Requirements in this [guidance](#) must be followed.

## Are caregivers allowed to accompany someone who needs care under the [Staffed Water Recreation Facilities COVID-19 Requirements](#)?

Yes. If an individual requires a caregiver to participate in an activity that is allowed under [this guidance](#), the individual may be accompanied by a caregiver in the water and in the rest of the facility. Facility staff must be informed when there is an individual needing a caregiver in order to minimize confusion and misunderstanding.

## Why is only one person allowed in each lane for lap-swimming?

Swimmers are not required to wear face-coverings and doing so would not be safe. In turn, physical distancing becomes very important to ensure that orders are being followed and to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19. Under [this guidance](#) in Modified Phase 1 and Phase 2, it is a strict requirement that only one person uses each lane for lap-swimming at any given time.