



Closure of aquatic facilities; Maintenance and start-up

This information sheet provides guidance to aquatic facility owners/operators and local government officers on the requirements for aquatic facilities (as defined in the *Health (Aquatic Facilities Regulations) 2007*) that are closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Closure period - Water quality maintenance

Closed aquatic facilities must be maintained in accordance with Section 5.5 Off-Season Periods – Water Quality Maintenance of the [Code of Practice for the Design, Construction, Operation, Management and Maintenance of Aquatic Facilities](#). (Code).

It is recommended that the owner/occupier seek guidance from their nominated technical operator in ensuring the minimum water quality requirements are met.

Local government microbiological water sampling

Local government, routine microbiological water sampling is not required for aquatic facilities that are closed. Routine microbiological sampling is required for any aquatic facility that remains open (i.e. where it has been granted an exemption from closing).

The Department of Health must be contacted immediately via swimmingpools@health.wa.gov.au if routine microbiological sampling cannot be conducted for further advice.

Requirements for re-opening aquatic facility

To ensure that the health and safety of patrons and staff using the facility will not be compromised, satisfactory microbiological water samples must be obtained by the local government prior to any closed aquatic facility being re-opened for use.

Prior to an aquatic facility being re-opened for use the owner/occupier must:

- ensure that the aquatic facility is operating in accordance with the requirements of sections 5, 6 & 7 of the Code
- seek approval from the environmental health service of the local government in which the aquatic facility is located (including obtaining satisfactory microbiological water samples).

Additional considerations

It is advised that there may be a surge in the requests for start-up sampling once closures are lifted. Due to increased demand by local government on laboratory resources, there may be some delay in facilities re-opening. To avoid any additional delays to re-opening it is recommended that pool chemicals with a limited shelf life (e.g. Sodium hypochlorite) are checked to ensure that the active ingredients are still viable.