



COVID-19 Transitioning - Standards and Guidance for Waterparks and Water Attractions

Version 2.0
Effective from 28th June 2021

The following standards are issued under the Public Health Act Chapter 465 of the Laws of Malta and require strict adherence. Failure to adhere to these conditions will result in enforcement procedures as provided by the Act.

Understanding how COVID-19 spreads & the implications

The virus which causes COVID-19 disease can be spread through droplets from a sick person or on contact (by touch). COVID-19 disease often presents with coughing or sneezing which release droplets of infected fluid. Most of these droplets can fall on nearby surfaces and objects - such as desks, tables, machinery, equipment, floors, walls, clothes or telephones. People can catch COVID-19 by touching contaminated surfaces or objects – and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. Being less than two metres away from a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time, one can catch the disease by breathing in droplets coughed out or exhaled by them.

In other words, COVID-19 spreads in a similar way to flu. Most persons infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and recover. The most common symptoms of coronavirus include cough, fever, shortness of breath, tiredness, sore throat, runny / blocked nose, headache, muscle pain, loss of smell, loss of taste, diarrhoea or vomiting. However, some go on to experience more serious illness and may require hospital care. Risk of serious illness rises with age. People with weakened immune systems and people with conditions such as diabetes, heart and lung disease are also more vulnerable to serious illness.

Persons who develop any of these symptoms, even if mild, are to stay at home, contact their doctor and contact the Public Health team on (+356) 111 for further advice and guidance. For more information, seek guidance on www.covid19health.gov.mt

Standards to be observed by Waterparks and Water attraction features

The Superintendent of Public Health hereby orders that all Registered and Non-Registered Outdoor Waterparks and Water attraction features shall implement the following standards and all the measures listed in the appended Checklist.

- Perspex or tempered glass barriers are to be fitted in the reception areas (2 metres from the floor).
- Hand sanitizers containing at least 70% alcohol must be made available at the reception area and other areas near service providers such as ticket booths, etc.
- Staff and customers are to wear face masks (covering mouth, nose and chin) at all times.
- Customers are to wear face masks (covering mouth, nose and chin) at all times except when swimming and when consuming food or drink.



- Temperature recordings of visitors are to be taken prior to admission to the park.
- Limit overall access to 50% of the usual capacity.
- Make sure people are social distancing and maintaining 2 metres between individuals in all areas of the park.
- Administrators are to monitor the areas where it is likely that people will gather in large numbers, and if required limit the number of people entering the respective areas to ensure social distancing.
- Post signs encouraging physical distancing of 2 metres.
- Organized activities should be booked ahead to control the number of people attending the park. Physical distancing must be respected.
- All equipment such as bouncy castles, jet skis, etc. are to be disinfected regularly
- The number of people using waterpark features should be 1 person per 4 square metres of useable space.
- Any activities which involve direct contact of people are not allowed, such as the sausage ski, etc, except for same household.
- In indoor areas the number of people should be limited, depending on the size of the area, and not exceed 1 person per 4 square metre area.
- After each session, the area is disinfected.
- Maintain restrooms that remain open. They are to be cleaned regularly. Ensure they have functional toilets, soap, water and paper towels

Guidelines for the application of COVID-19 standards in Waterparks and Water attraction features

All of the above establishments are being advised to operate in accordance with the standards for good practice included in this document. All establishment operators are also advised that they are responsible for ensuring that any gatherings and events held within their establishment follow also the legal provisions, standards and guidance applicable to gatherings and events.

Principles for business continuity

As COVID-19 restrictions are gradually relaxed, employers and staff must adapt to and promote safe work practices consistent with advice from public health authorities. Employers and staff are to ensure that wearing of masks, social distancing and correct hygiene measures are respected, since these are critical to the success of the transition.

Employers and staff can help to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 while in waterparks and water attractions, consistent with updated advice from the public health authorities.

Employers and staff must prepare for the possibility that there will be cases of COVID-19 in waterparks and water attractions, and be ready to respond immediately appropriately, effectively and efficiently, and consistent with specific recommendations from public health authorities.



Duties of the employers and workers

Employers are expected to take care of the health, safety and welfare of workers, including themselves, and all other staff, including contractors and delivery persons, clients and customers to collective accommodation establishments. This includes providing and maintaining a work environment that minimises risk to health and safety, providing adequate and accessible facilities for the welfare of workers to carry out their work and monitoring the health of workers and the conditions of the workplace for the purpose of preventing illness or injury. Employers must minimise the risk of exposure to COVID-19 of workers and customers by taking reasonable and practical measures to mitigate risk.

Protection of workers from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 may include, for example:

- ✓ Requiring workers to practice social distancing
- ✓ Requiring workers to practice good hygiene (e.g., through workplace policies and ensuring access to adequate and well stocked hygiene facilities)
- ✓ Requiring workers to stay home when sick
- ✓ Cleaning the workplace regularly and thoroughly
- ✓ Implementing working from home arrangements for those aspects of the business where such arrangements can be applied

Employers must take actions to ensure that collective accommodation establishments minimise risks to the health and safety of clients, customers, contractors and delivery persons at risk of contracting COVID-19. Such protection from the risk of exposure to COVID-19 may include, for example:

- ✓ Requiring them to practice social distancing, including through contactless deliveries and payments
- ✓ Requiring them to practice good hygiene, and
- ✓ Requiring others to stay away from the workplace, unless essential, e.g., such as family, friends and visitors.

Employers must maintain a safe work environment by, for example:

- ✓ Cleaning the workplace regularly and thoroughly,
- ✓ Restructuring the layout of the workplace to allow for social distancing,
- ✓ Limiting the number of people inside collective accommodation establishments at any given time,



- ✓ Exercising the right of refusal of entry into the establishment of customers and staff if they are visibly unwell or have respiratory symptoms including coughing, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat.
- ✓ Providing adequate facilities to protect workers, as much as possible from contracting COVID-19 such as:
 - Toilet facilities including adequate supply of soap, water and paper towels
 - Hand sanitisers around the workplace, where it is not possible for workers to wash their hands,
 - Staff rooms (where applicable) that are regularly cleaned and that allow for social distancing,
- ✓ Providing workers with regular breaks to use sanitizing facilities, particularly to allow workers to wash their hands, or to access hand sanitiser where this is not possible,
- ✓ Providing information, training, instruction and supervision which may include:
 - guidance on how to properly wash hands
 - training on how to fit and use any necessary personal protective equipment (PPE)
 - training on adequate cleaning practices throughout the day
 - instructions on how to set up a safe home workplace for those working from home, and
- ✓ Providing workers with instructions on staying home from work if sick.

Employers have the duty to consult with workers on health and safety matters relating to COVID-19. Employers must give workers the opportunity to express their views and raise their concerns. Workers are most likely to know about the risks of their work. Involving them will help build commitment to any changes that employers need to implement. Employers must advise workers of the outcome of consultation. Adapting collective accommodation establishments to manage and mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 requires a thorough risk assessment. These guidelines provide considerations that employers must make when deciding on control measures such as restrictions within collective accommodation establishments to allow for social distancing, the adequacy of facilities for proper personal hygiene, cleaning arrangements, working from home arrangements, and other changes that may affect the health and safety of workers. Consultation does not require consensus or agreement, but employers are strongly advised to allow workers to be part of the decision-making process for COVID-19 related matters.



REGISTERED OUTDOOR WATERPARK CHECKLIST

Name of Establishment: _____

Responsible Person Present: _____

Checklist filled by: (Name) _____ (Position) _____

Date: _____

THIS CHECKLIST IS BEING PURPOSELY SUBDIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT AREAS OF OPERATION DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE NATIONAL TRANSITION STRATEGY MAY DECIDE FOR THE GRADUAL AND PARTIAL RE-INTRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT SERVICES. WHEN COMPLETING THIS CHECKLIST, THE RELEVANT SECTION(S) FOR SERVICES WHICH HAVE YET TO RECEIVE HEALTH AUTHORITIES' CLEARANCE TO OPERATE AS AT THE DATE OF COMPLETION ARE TO BE FILLED AS N/A (NOT APPLICABLE)

IN CASE OF ALL ESTABLISHMENTS: (SEE TECHNICAL NOTE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT)

	Yes/No	Date Certified
Establishment certified clear of Legionella.		
Test results and certification available.		

1. Reception and Front Desk: Availability of Information & Communication to Guests

	Yes/No	Comments
Reception staff practicing physical distancing and regular hand sanitising.		
Tempered glass or acrylic barriers should be installed in the reception area with a height of at least 2m from the floor.		
Reception Staff wearing mask and/or visor.		
Reception desk possesses the telephone numbers of the health authorities, hospitals and medical centres, public and private hospitals for use whenever there is the possibility that a guest may be ill.		



Contactless payment methods available.		
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2. Necessary equipment and medical kit at the Establishment

	Yes/No	Comments
Visors are to be cleaned regularly with alcohol.		
Disposable face masks can only be used once.		
Germicidal disinfectant/wipes for surface cleaning tissues.		
Gloves (disposable).		
Protective apron (disposable).		
Full-length long-sleeved gown.		
Biohazard disposable waste bag.		

3. Technical and maintenance services

ESTABLISHMENTS WILL NEED TO PRODUCE MAINTENANCE AND TESTING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO MICROBIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WATER ANALYSIS AND PROVIDE RECORDS OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

	Yes/No	Comments
Inflatables are to be sanitised after every single use.		
Free Available Chlorine of 1.5 ppm – 3.0 ppm to be checked 3 times daily and recorded.		
Sanitisation stations with 70% alcohol are to be made available for the patrons and the attendants prior to access any waterpark feature. It is highly recommended that patrons are encouraged to use sanitiser regularly.		
Contact details are to be collected for every person that enters the establishment.		
Temperature screening is to be carried out prior entry.		



Limited access of 50% of the usual capacity.		
Two-meter distance is to be kept between patrons unless they reside in the same household.		
Crowd control is to take place at entry point the feature and on the feature itself.		
Signs adequately large are to be made available at each feature showing the maximum number of people allowed at each time on said feature.		
Contact less payment is to be made available		
Frequently used surfaces are to be cleaned hourly and signed for (handrails and other surfaces		
Queuing while waiting turns must be ensured that a proper social distancing of 2 meters is being kept.		
Stairs are not to be used for queuing.		
Number of persons in Public Spaces Regulations and their subsequent amendments should be adhered to at all times.		
Public Health Standards pertaining to duly licensed catering establishments and bars are to be adhered to at all times if applicable.		



NON - REGISTERED OUTDOOR WATERPARK CHECKLIST

Name of Establishment: _____

Responsible Person Present: _____

Checklist filled by: (Name) _____ (Position) _____

Date: _____

THIS CHECKLIST IS BEING PURPOSELY SUBDIVIDED INTO DIFFERENT AREAS OF OPERATION DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE NATIONAL TRANSITION STRATEGY MAY DECIDE FOR THE GRADUAL AND PARTIAL RE-INTRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT SERVICES. WHEN COMPLETING THIS CHECKLIST, THE RELEVANT SECTION(S) FOR SERVICES WHICH HAVE YET TO RECEIVE HEALTH AUTHORITIES' CLEARANCE TO OPERATE AS AT THE DATE OF COMPLETION ARE TO BE FILLED AS N/A (NOT APPLICABLE)

IN CASE OF ALL ESTABLISHMENTS: (SEE TECHNICAL NOTE AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT)

1. Reception and Front Desk: Availability of Information & Communication to Guests

	Yes/No	Comments
Reception staff practicing physical distancing and regular hand sanitising.		
Tempered glass or acrylic barriers should be installed in the reception area with a height of at least 2m from the floor.		
Reception Staff wearing mask and/or visor		
Reception desk possesses the telephone numbers of the health authorities, hospitals and medical centres, public and private hospitals for use whenever there is the possibility that a guest may be ill.		
Contactless Payment Methods available.		

2. Necessary equipment and medical kit at the Establishment



	Yes/No	Comments
Visors are to be cleaned regularly with alcohol.		
Disposable face masks can only be used once.		
Germicidal disinfectant/wipes for surface cleaning tissues.		
Gloves (disposable).		
Protective apron (disposable).		
Full-length long-sleeved gown.		
Biohazard disposable waste bag.		

3. Technical and maintenance services

ESTABLISHMENTS WILL NEED TO PROVIDE RECORDS OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

	Yes/No	Comments
Inflatables are to be sanitised after every single use.		
Free Available Chlorine of 1.5 ppm – 3.0 ppm to be checked 3 times daily and recorded.		
Sanitisation stations with 70% alcohol are to be made available for the patrons and the attendants by the ticket booth. It is highly recommended that patrons are encouraged to use sanitiser regularly.		
Contact details are to be collected for every person purchasing tickets.		
Temperature screening is to be carried out.		
Limited access of 50% of the usual capacity according to the surface area of the inflatable (excluding sea or voids).		
Two-meter distance is to be kept between patrons unless they reside in the same household.		



Crowd control is to take place at ticket booth and on the inflatable feature.		
Every single feature must have the maximum number of persons that can use it, once the 4 square meter area per person is calculated according to the inflatable surface area.		
Contact less payment is to be made available.		
Frequently used surfaces are to be cleaned hourly and cleaning documented.		
During queuing while waiting turns it must be ensured that a proper social distancing of 2 meters is being kept.		
Number of persons in Public Spaces Regulations and their subsequent amendments should be adhered to at all times.		
Public Health Standards pertaining to duly licensed catering establishments and bars are to be adhered to at all times if applicable.		