



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 21, 2020

To: The Honorable Chairman and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Reopening the Northwest YMCA Thad Terry Pool**

The County is a partner with the Northwest YMCA in operating the Thad Terry Pool. Effective today, the pool will reopen on a limited basis.

In addition, our Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Department will similarly reinstate limited programs at the pool to be consistent with actions of the YMCA. Details regarding the pool's reopening and the Northwest YMCA's pandemic operational plan can be found in the attached September 18, 2020 memorandum from NRPR Director Chris Cawein.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Terry Cullen, MD, MS, Public Health Director, Pima County Health Department

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 18, 2020

To: CH Huckelberry, County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Deputy County Administrator

From: Chris Cawein, Director



Subject: Reopening of Northwest YMCA Thad Terry Pool

As you are well aware, due to the COVID19 pandemic, NRPR elected to not open our swimming pools or splash pads for our normal aquatics programming during the summer of 2020. Although when our original reopening strategy was submitted in May, we were initially optimistic that we might be able to advance a limited aquatics program for a portion of the summer. However, the significant community spread of Corona Virus in Arizona during the summer did not support pursuit of our original limited reopening strategy. Regardless, we have kept each facility in good shape and we are cautiously optimistic that our programs will return to normal for summer 2021.

As described to you in a previous white paper submittal, NRPR maintains a strong partnership with the YMCA for the operation of the Northwest YMCA, which includes the Thad Terry pool. This is the only year-round pool operated by Pima County and serves as a main site for the training of lifeguards in the area during the off-season. Generally speaking, the YMCA has operated morning programs at the Thad Terry pool while NRPR has operated afternoon programs. As we enter the fall of 2020, the YMCA has recently begun cautiously reopening their facilities and is pursuing the opening of their programs associated with the Thad Terry pool at the Northwest YMCA.

Because the NWYMCA has elected to reopen the pool on a limited basis effective September 21, 2020, it is prudent for NRPR to similarly reinstate limited programs at the Thad Terry pool in a consistent manner so as not to cause public confusion.

We have been closely monitoring industry standards as well as federal, state and local regulatory requirements and guidelines for pool re-openings and have been working closely with the YMCA to develop a safe and unified strategy for pool reopening. A copy of that joint facility Pandemic Operational Plan is attached to this memorandum. Key elements of our strategy, as well as other key precepts to ensure protection of public health, consist of:

1. Reopening of the facility beginning on September 21 with YMCA operating morning programs and NRPR operating afternoon/evening programs in accordance with our historical partnership;
2. Operating the facility at a level well below the carrying capacity of the site (**estimated at less than 13% of capacity**) in order to ensure that adequate space for physical distancing exists at the site at all times;

3. **Only allowing “Lap” Swim to occur** (with one person per lane under virtually all circumstances) and not opening up the pool to “Open” swim opportunities;
4. **Instituting appropriate face mask protocols** in accordance with BOS Resolution No. 2020-49 for site users not actively swimming;
5. **Instituting appropriate disinfection protocols** on all touch surfaces;
6. **Installing appropriate COVID19 notification and reminder signage** and social distancing markers at and around the site; and,
7. **Ensuring tightly controlled access to the facility.**

NRPR will also be permitting the Mountain View High School Swim Team to utilize the site during select afternoon hours for limited activities (similar practice lap swim). MVHS submitted to us a Pandemic Operational Plan for their activities (attached) which aligns with the activities referenced in the joint YMCA/NRPR Pandemic Operational Plan.

We believe that the strategies being employed at the Northwest YMCA Thad Terry Pool are appropriate to reduce the risk from the spread of COVID19 and will ensure the safety of all staff and users of the facility. Our program aligns well with those entities around the region and nation that have already reopened their aquatics program employing a conservative approach and we therefore do not expect significant issues to arise. We will however continue to closely evaluate activities at the pool on a regular basis and make any and all adjustments deemed necessary to provide optimal protection of all staff and patrons of this facility.

Let me know if you have any questions pertaining to this joint reopening strategy. Otherwise, we intend to advance our limited afternoon aquatics programs in a manner consistent with the YMCA morning programs employing the protocols described herein beginning on September 21.

Attachments



**THAD TERRY AQUATIC CENTER at the
NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center**

Partnered Pandemic Operational Plan



Background:

The NWYMCA- Thad Terry Aquatic Center located at 7770 N. Shannon Road, Tucson, AZ 85741 is a public swimming pool with Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation holding the License to Operate with the Pima County Health Department. There is already an operational agreement 11-04-Y-130852-0069 (including amendment 1) for the joint operation of the Thad Terry Aquatic Center. This partnered pandemic operational plan serves to clarify both agency's plan to operate the Thad Terry Aquatic Center during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic as declared by local, state, and federal health officials in addition to the already existing operational agreement between both agencies.

Both agencies, at any time, may revise the partnered pandemic operational plan as needed to meet needs for practicality or sufficiency. Such changes will be communicated in writing between Pima County and YMCA aquatic management staff.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the CDC released considerations for all public swimming pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

Both Pima County and the YMCA will use these considerations during their respective operational hours to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Below are the notable sections, as it relates to this joint operational plan:

Masks:

Staff:

All lifeguard staff members shall wear a face covering while on property, whether indoors or outdoors except when swimming and when the emergency Action plan has been activated.

Public/Y-members:

Use of face coverings are required by Resolution No. 2020-49 of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, which states, in part, that every person must wear a face covering that completely and snugly covers the person's nose and mouth when the person is in a public place and cannot easily maintain a continuous distance of at least six feet from all other persons. Exempt from this resolution are persons who are swimming.

Temp checks/facility entrance:

Each agency will be responsible for temperature checking their respective staff (if required by the operating agency). Temperature checks will not be required at this time for members of the public/Y-members to specifically use the pool, however, this may change at any time.

Temperature checks may be required to enter the main NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center.

All members of the public and Y-members will use the Thad Terry Aquatic Center front entrance for purposes of entering and accessing the pool facility. Any Y-member wishing to gain access to the NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center from the pool will be directed by the lifeguard staff to enter through the front doors of the main NWYMCA building. Under no circumstance shall lifeguard staff let someone into the NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center unless it is through the main front doors. Lifeguard staff will access the NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center through the main front doors for purposes of obtaining pool facility keys. Lifeguard staff may access the NWYMCA-Pima County Community Center through any door if the emergency action plan has been activated.

Facility Signage:

1) Parking Lot Gate:

- When Closed - "Welcome to Thad Terry Aquatic Center – Please visit Pima.gov/pools or Tucsonymca.org for our operational hours".
- When Open - A-Frame sign will be present at gate stating "pool is open"

2) Guard Office:

- Hours/Schedule (lap swim/FAQs) for staff and swimmers
- "Stop the Spread..." Pima County Poster
- Pima County mask requirement poster on doors to all staff work areas (guard office, equipment room, pool pump room)

3) Deck/Gates/Restrooms:

- Social Distancing Markers on floor of restroom and at front entrance to check in
- "Stop the Spread..." Pima County poster throughout the facility
- "Stop – please do not enter if you have..." Pima county poster on main gate/check in window
- Signage stating one swimmer per lane unless swimmers are from the same household. Max/limit per lane is 3 participants.

- Signage encouraging patrons to be courteous if all lanes are being used to limit their workout to an hour.
- Limited use of water fountain for filling water bottles only

Cleaning/Sanitizing Protocol

Per the CDC, there is no evidence that Covid-19 can be spread to humans through the use of recreational waters. All pool water chemistry and disinfectant levels in both the competition and recreation pools will continue to adhere to the current Pima County public swimming pool health code requirements.

According to the CDC, frequently touched surfaces at all aquatic facilities should be cleaned at least daily, and shared objects each time they are used. Each agency, at their own discretion, may elect to increase the frequency of disinfecting the facility during their operational hours.

- 1) **At Opening of each agencies respective operational times** (both YMCA and County):
Wipe down and sanitize all high frequency touchpoints including, but not limited to: door handles, light switches, sinks, toilets, pool handrails, ADA chair lift, lifeguard stands, counters in guard office, refrigerator, water fountain, etc.
- 2) **At Closing of each agencies respective operational times** (YMCA and County)
Same as opening, as well as WYSI Wash deck space around Comp Pool, breezeway, bathrooms. Clear Refrigerator at end of shift. Wipe down and sanitize any locker used.
- 3) **Sanitize items as needed/used:** lifejackets, swim equipment, ADA chair, chairs on deck
- 4) Pima County Cleaning shift on Sundays: 11:15am to 12:45pm, vacuum, extensive deep clean bathrooms, guard office. If there are no operational hours on the weekends, cleaning shift will be moved to Saturdays from 2pm to 5pm before in-service.

Guard Office

- 1) Table and chairs for staff with social distancing signage
- 2) Food storage in refrigerator – daily, must be cleared at end of each shift. Any items found in the refrigerator at the beginning of the next shift will be discarded.
- 3) No long term locker usage: Personal belongings – pack it in, pack it out. Pima County Staff – mailboxes can store fanny pack and whistle daily. Any lockers used will need to be sanitized at the end of each shift.
- 4) PPE/ Rescue Equipment (numbered tubes assigned for day, sanitized at end of shift, will be evaluated monthly or as needed).
- 5) Lost and Found – always handle with gloves, discard each weekly cleaning shift.

Thad Terry Aquatic Center OPERATIONAL HOURS

Both agencies recognize the current Covid-19 pandemic remains fluid, and the operational hours of the Thad Terry Aquatic Center may need to change at any time. Each agency shall notify the other agency in writing of any changes to their respective operational hours.

YMCA morning operational hours:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:

7AM-11AM

Saturday and Sunday:

May add additional weekend morning hours once the YMCA reopens the main facility on weekends.

Pima County afternoon operational hours:

Monday – Friday:

3:30PM to 5:30PM MVHS swim team

5:30PM to 8PM Lap swim only

Saturday and Sunday:

Cleaning and lifeguard training only

May add additional weekend afternoon hours to the public/Y-members once the YMCA reopens the main facility on weekends.

MVHS Swim Team Pandemic Operational Plan

The MVHS Swim team will follow all District and County guidelines in place at all times. Currently we have a District policy on face coverings, the important language for this use is as follows:

- **All staff members shall wear a face covering while on any District property, in any District facility, at any District event, whether indoors or outdoors, and in any District vehicle.**

Given this policy, all coaches will be wearing masks while coaching on the pool deck. Should they need to get in the water, they would be allowed to remove them. In addition, the Marana Unified School District has developed a MUSD High School Voluntary Low Impact/Non-Contact Authorized Conditioning Workout Protocol that all athletes and coaches must adhere to. Below are the pertinent excerpts of this protocol for the Mountain View High School Swim Team program:

- All athletes, coaches, and other support staff must be free from symptoms for at least 14 days; no individual should be in close contact with anyone who is sick within that 14 days.
- If sick, stay at home.
- All students participating should have completed the school waiver prior to participation.
- Athletes shall come to campus ready to workout and leave immediately after workouts.
- Athletes shall be dropped off by one parent or guardian, or drive themselves to and from workouts when possible.
- Outside observers shall not be permitted to stay and observe workouts.
- Locker rooms will not be available.
- Bathrooms will be limited and used for emergencies only.
- No shared water bottles or sports drinks.
- Each athlete must bring a minimum of a gallon of water or sports drink or they will not be able to participate.
- Use/bring your own hand sanitizer and do not share.
- No sharing of towels or attire i.e. tee shirts, shoes, shorts, gloves, etc.
- No spitting.
- No physical contact i.e. high fives, fist bumps, hugs of any kind.
- All athletes will wear masks unless their breathing is restricted due to activities.
- Social distancing of greater than 6 feet is encouraged at all times
- Display healthy hygiene: Wash hands frequently, cover your mouth and face if you sneeze or cough, shower immediately upon arriving at home and wash your clothes, avoid touching your face with your hands.

While at the Thad Terry Pool facility, the coaches will be responsible for following these rules and enforcing them with student athletes. The only people allowed in the pool area will be coaches and athletes. At this time, no spectators or observers are allowed at workouts.