

June 9, 2020

## Update on COVID-19: Alberta Relaunch Strategy and Return to Swimming

Dear Club Presidents and Head Coaches,  
*(please share this with board members and coaching staff, and as needed with club membership)*

Today the Alberta Government announced that Stage 2 of Alberta's Relaunch Strategy will begin on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The opening of Recreation Facilities, including swimming pools has been moved into Stage 2. Information and Guidance documents published by the Alberta Government as it relates to Stage 2 businesses opening are available on the Biz Connect website: [BIZ CONNECT](#)

Here are some things you need to know:

**The priority of Swim Alberta has always been and will always be the safety of our membership, specifically our athletes, as well as our coaches, volunteers, staff and families involved in the sport.** This priority will continue as we update the Swim Alberta Return to In-Person Training and Swimming Requirements document and continue to work with our clubs and facility partners through the re-launch process. Alberta Health Services (AHS) still requires physical distancing protocols to be followed and still has restrictions on gathering sizes and activities. Swim Alberta will continue to follow the lead of AHS on all guidelines and requirements.

**Facilities will open at different rates across the province and some may not open.** Although the Alberta Government has allowed recreation facilities and swimming pools to open as of June 12<sup>th</sup>, it will take pools a number of weeks to bring back staff, refill tanks with water (where needed) and finish planned shutdown maintenance. Large municipalities have told us that they have a staged, planned approach to open pools and not all will open at the same time. Some municipalities and facilities may choose to remain closed for an additional period of time. Clubs are encouraged to reach out to their local facility to discuss re-opening plans, as well as to finalize return to swimming plans.

**Swim Alberta – Return to In-Person Training and Swimming Requirements Document.** Staff are currently in the process of updating the requirement document with information released today as it relates to activity guidelines and requirements for both organized sport and swimming pools. You have our commitment that we will get an updated version to you as soon as we are able.

**Club Declaration Forms for In-Person Training and Swimming** must be completed and returned before any in-person training or swimming can commence by the club. These are available on the Swim Alberta website in both a PDF and Fillable PDF version. [LINK TO CLUB DECLARATION FORMS](#). A form must be completed for both in-person training (dryland activities) and when the club plans to resume water training, the Return to Swimming Declaration must be completed. Please submit these forms to: [val@swimalberta.ca](mailto:val@swimalberta.ca)

**Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk Forms** need to be completed by each coach who is actively coaching and each swimmer/parent who is currently training or plans to return to training in the near future. Please email Val Carr at [val@swimalberta.ca](mailto:val@swimalberta.ca) and she will send out the forms and provide you with a process for collecting and returning completed forms. While we are currently working with Swimming Canada to be able to send and collect these forms electronically, the format is not yet available. In the meantime, the forms will need to be sent out and collected by the clubs. For the 2020-2021 registration season, these will be built into the national registration system.

As always, please reach out to Swim Alberta staff with any questions you may have.  
Kind regards, Cheryl Humphrey - Executive Director