

On Thursday, March 5, Governor Larry Hogan declared a state of emergency for Maryland after state health officials confirmed Maryland's first three cases of the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19, all of which are in Montgomery County. A state of emergency allows the governor to access certain resources in order to increase the state's response.

***Hydro-Sonic Tiburones will continue normal practices until otherwise directed.*** We are actively communicating with all the facilities we utilize to ensure that we are well informed of this ongoing and evolving situation.

In response to the Novel Coronavirus/COVID-19 situation, the teams planning and operational decisions align with guidance from the CDC and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Potomac Valley Swimming and United States Swimming. Our highest priority is the health and well-being of our TIBU family. We appreciate the genuine concerns raised by this global health issue and we are committed to keeping you informed.

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*From Helix Water District Operations, Serving San Diego, CA*

“Coronavirus (COVID-19) is known to spread from person to person through close contact, similar to how the flu is transmitted. There is currently no evidence to support that Coronavirus (COVID-19) is transmitted through drinking water/pool water. Coronavirus (COVID-19) can be disinfected through use of ozone, chlorine and other treatment processes.”

*From World Health Organization (WHO)*

“This is still a new virus and we are still gathering more epidemiological data to understand better the transmission. Based on the current data, we see that COVID-19 is transmitting mainly through respiratory droplets.”

*From Health Protection Surveillance Centre, Ireland*

“For Swimming Pool chlorination, operating to ‘current recommendations / best practice’ means maintenance of a free chlorine residual of at least 1.0 mg/l (depending on pool type and disinfectant used) is sufficient to inactivate COVID-19 virus in chlorinated swimming pools.”

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As we continue to monitor developments of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we would like to remind you of important information resources and suggested safety measures everyone can follow. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to stress general precautions to prevent the spread of communicable diseases:

- wash your hands often;
- cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze;
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe;

- get a flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu, which has similar symptoms to COVID-19;
- **stay home when you are sick, and away from the pool and from fellow team members.**

USA Swimming will work with, and follow, all guidance and protocols issued by the CDC, state and local public health departments. Both the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) have published recommendations/guidelines for gatherings and healthy travel. For members planning to host or attend sanctioned events, we encourage you to request updates directly from event organizers, who should be actively communicating with local health professionals.

We strongly encourage everyone to seek further information using the CDC, the WHO and Maryland Dept. of Health websites:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html#situation-in-us>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>
- [https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus\\_FAQ.pdf](https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Documents/coronavirus_FAQ.pdf)