March 10, 2020

Dear Patrons,

We have had numerous inquiries about whether the pool is a safe place to swim and exercise during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in our area. We are using and following protocols provided by the CDC and the Contra Costa County Department of Health.

Starting with some very general information, the pools are “safe” for swimming due to the chlorine which sanitizes the water. As always, we test the chlorine & pH levels at the beginning of each shift to be sure they are at a safe level. We do not add extra chlorine to make it “more safe” because that would create other health problems. However, the surfaces around the pool and facility are what is risky, as with any location that is open to the public.

Now, more specific information about what we are doing... The pool facilities get cleaned daily (in the mornings before we open), and Aquatics staff are wiping commonly used surfaces throughout the day with disinfectant wipes or solution. We ask that everyone be cautious of any surfaces that are exposed to the public. We have plenty of surfaces that, no matter how often they are cleaned or disinfected, someone could potentially come along the next minute and contaminate it. So everyone should take personal responsibility to wash their hands after touching any public surfaces.

Lastly, we implore all patrons to self-regulate your attendance and participation at our pools if you have symptoms identified by the CDC (cough, fever, respiratory difficulty). You may think you’re fine because you don’t feel very bad, or that you will feel better if you can just come for a swim, but it’s unfair to expose others to any potential risk when you cannot know if you’ve been exposed to the Coronavirus yourself.

Along those lines, out of an abundance of caution, if someone comes to the pools and shows signs of the symptoms associated with the Coronavirus, we will ask them to leave (and will be happy to welcome them back when they are symptom-free). We hope that all patrons will self-regulate so that we don’t have to do this. We also understand that sometimes someone will cough without having a cough, so we shouldn’t be alarmed at every sound we hear, but we also will expect that everyone covers their cough or sneeze with a tissue or in their arm, as is recommended by health care professionals.

As many of you know, we do not have spare Lifeguards and staff to work in case of illnesses, so keeping our staff healthy is imperative to keeping the pools open. We ask for your cooperation and understanding in this, and we sincerely look forward to the day (hopefully soon) when this is behind us.

Until then, please check the website regularly for updates. If the pools need to close (for a shift or for a longer period of time) the website will be updated. An email may or may not be sent, depending on various situations.

Sincerely,

Paula Cooper-Tipton
City of Richmond, Aquatics Coordinator
Paula_cooper-tipton@ci.richmond.ca.us