

## **Appendix 1 - Draft Swimming Facilities Covid-19 Recovery Plans**

### **Introduction**

1. In line with Government Guidance on COVID-19, the Bathing Ponds and Lido currently remain closed. The City of London Corporation is keeping the situation under review and will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so. This will be done in consultation with Swimming Associations and other key stakeholders.
2. Early indications are swimming facilities may be able to open under “Step 3” of the Governments Strategy which could be introduced from 4 July 2020 at the earliest.

### **Planning for Summer 2020 opening**

3. The Superintendent has started to prepare Recovery Plans for the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities.
4. Lifeguard training and fitness training is continuing, with adaptations to maintain Social Distancing. This is essential to ensure the Team are ready to resume their duties. All Full Time and Fixed Term Contract Lifeguards have completed the Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) online training modules and have been allocated Open Water Lifeguard manuals in preparation for the qualification assessment.
5. RLSS advice will be critical in terms of performing rescues, resuscitation and Lifeguard safety. The following website is being monitored <https://www.rlss.org.uk/pages/category/rlss-uk-guidance-for-operating-during-covid-19>
6. Lifeguards as first responders may have close contact with individuals with potential Coronavirus infection (COVID-19). As part of their normal roles, they may be required to provide immediate assistance requiring close contact until further medical assistance arrives.
7. In the current situation of sustained community transmission of COVID-19 in the UK, Social Distancing, the strict application of safe working practices and, where Social Distancing cannot be maintained, the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be determined through Risk Assessments.
8. Understandably, there is a degree of anxiety amongst the Lifeguards and Rangers around their safety when undertaking their duties. Covid-19 Secure Workplace Risk Assessments have been prepared and are being discussed with staff and the recognised Trade Unions.
9. Maintenance and repairs are ongoing to ensure the facilities remain operational. The repairs to the accessible shower at Kenwood Ladies’ Bathing Pond are a priority along with the boiler replacement and terracing repairs at the Parliament Hill Fields Lido.

10. The Superintendent will continue to liaise with the Director of Open Spaces, the Director of Health, RLSS, Swim England and other outdoor swimming venues to develop suitable control measures to help control the risk of spreading Coronavirus.
11. In the short term it is proposed to use an online booking website to manage session booking and payment. In due course the intention would be to move the online booking onto the Hampstead Heath App which is currently in development. At this stage contactless payments could be introduced and integrated with season ticket wristbands. The Parliament Hill Information Office staff will be able to assist with making bookings and payments, for those who do not have on-line access.
12. The use of toilets, showers and indoor changing spaces will need to be carefully risk assessed. Currently, the Hampstead Heath Team do not have a sustainable supply of the PPE Public Health England recommend for toilet cleaning e.g. the use of disposal aprons and face masks.
13. Communications setting out the new operating arrangements will need developing and promoting through the Swimming Associations, press, website, social media and signage on site to ensure visitors are aware of the changes to the swimming arrangements to comply with Social Distancing and Lifeguard safety. A proactive social media campaign will be used to remind swimmers of the requirements to book and pay in advanced before arriving at the facilities. This will be particularly important leading up to periods of hot sunny weather.
14. These draft proposals have been discussed with the Swimming Associations and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

### **Parliament Hill Fields Lido - Draft Proposals**

15. Move to online booking only to limit the number of swimmers using the facility and to eliminate cash handling. A range of booking limitations will be necessary to prevent block bookings by individuals and to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to swim.
16. Introduce timed swimming sessions. This will prevent overcrowding and allow Social Distancing measures to be introduced at the facility. It will relieve pressure on use of the toilets, changing areas as well as swimmers Social Distancing in and out of the water.
  - Session 1 – 07.00 – 08.30
  - Session 2 – 09.30 – 11.00
  - Session 3 – 12.00 – 13.30
  - Session 4 – 14.30 – 16.00
  - Session 5 – 17.00 – 18.30
17. An hour has been programmed between the swimming sessions to facilitate cleaning and preparing the Lido for the next session. This needs to be trialled, as it may be possible to reduce this time and add a further swimming session.

18. It is proposed that each session could facilitate 100 swimmers. This would need to be kept under review. The number of swimmers permitted access for the session would be able to use their time allocation for both swimming and sunbathing within the facility, whilst respecting the Social Distancing requirements.
19. Consideration will be given to providing family sessions where a ratio of 1 adult per 2 children from the same household may swim together. The children will also need to be competent swimmers.
20. To ensure the Social Distancing measures, it is proposed to introduce a flow system at the facility:
  - A. Entrance queue – 2m spacing markers on ground along entrance ramp and path. Barriers erected along path. A member of staff would hold the queue at the bottom of entrance ramp until the entry kiosk is clear then allow the next customer to move forward.
  - B. One-way system – Arrows on floor. From foyer to the changing rooms, use middle door to access poolside, swim in lanes, exit pool and use the poolside showers, use the main poolside opening to again access to and changing, use exit turnstiles at end of the changing rooms. The internal showers and toilets will remain closed. The four outdoor showers will be available for swimmers to use. Subject to securing sufficient supplies of PPE the poolside toilets could be opened.
  - C. Additional staff required to manage one-way flow in changing areas/toilets. Metal barriers with signage attached to help with flow routes and messaging to swimmers.
21. Introduction of Social Distancing to Swimming:
  - A. Lane swimming only. Proposed 20 swimmers in each lane swimming in one direction, at least 4m apart to maintain distancing. No stopping at each end.
  - B. 5 x lanes available. Lanes are 5m wide.
  - C. Lanes marked for different swimming abilities.
  - D. The beginner's lane would be divided at the 1m depth mark to provide 1/3 of the lane for shallow end, one direction swimming. The remaining 2/3 would be available for beginners.
  - E. Close children's slide.
  - F. Close the paddling pool.
  - G. Close the Sauna.
22. Poolside:
  - A. Sunbathing – if Social Distancing permits.
  - B. Café – proposed to limit the offer to teas/coffees and snacks served from door. No access to inside or seating outside.
  - C. Waste & recycling to be introduced.
  - D. Swimmers will be encouraged to use the poolside for changing to alleviate the pressure on the changing rooms.

23. Cleaning/hygiene – Staff will be briefed on how to use PPE including decontamination and disposal. The gap between sessions will provide time for cleaning to be carried out.
24. Security/Stewards – Additional staff/security need to be used outside building to manage queue, stop people climbing the perimeter wall and gaining unauthorised entry. Also, to help manage visitors who have not purchased a session ticket online.
25. The Planning Application for the external temporary fence has been submitted and the Planning Case Officer has requested additional information from the Designing Out Crime Officer (MET Police). To support the application for listed Building Consent a heritage statement is also being prepared.
26. Information – new signage installed on site to ensure visitors are aware of the changes to the swimming arrangements to maintain Social Distancing and Lifeguard safety.
27. Drinking water fountains will not be accessible.

#### **Highgate Men's Bathing Pond – Draft Proposals**

28. Move to online booking only to limit the number of swimmers using the facility and to eliminate cash handling. A range of booking limitations will be necessary to prevent block bookings by individuals and to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to swim.
29. Introduce timed swimming sessions. This will prevent overcrowding and allow Social Distancing measures to be introduced at the facility. It will relieve pressure on use of toilets, changing areas as well as swimmers distancing in and out of water.
  - Session 1 - 07.00 - 08.00
  - Session 2 - 08.30 - 09.30
  - Session 3 - 10.00 - 11.00
  - Session 4 – 11.30 - 12.30
  - Session 5 – 13.00 - 14.00
  - Session 6 – 14.30 - 15.30
  - Session 7 – 16.00 - 17.00
  - Session 8 – 17.30 - 18.30
30. It is proposed that each session could facilitate 30 swimmers. This would need to be kept under review.
31. 30 minutes has been programmed between the swimming sessions to facilitate cleaning and preparing the facility for the next session. This needs to be trialled, as it may be possible to reduce this time and add a further swimming session.
32. Introduce a flow system to ensure social distancing at the facility:
  - A. Entrance queue – 2m spacing markers on ground.

- B. Install a new temporary level entrance to maintain Social Distancing. This would allow the existing entrance to be used as an emergency exit from the changing compound. A simple timber open shelter will be necessary to provide a safe environment for the staff managing the entrance to the facility.
  - C. A system will need developing to manage entry and exit from the Pond to maintain Social Distancing. This would involve creating a new doorway onto pondside from the changing room to alleviate congestion.
33. Introduction of Social Distancing to Swimming:
- A. One-way swimming arrangement will be introduced with swimmers exiting the pond from the Lifebuoys jetty.
  - B. No access to the diving board.
34. No Sunbathing – Utilise the current sunbathing area to provide additional space for changing thus increasing the capacity of the facility. To alleviate the pinch points the partition between the sunbathing and main changing area will be removed. This will open up the area and reduce the congestion.
35. Resuscitation and first aid – Guidance from the RLSS has been received.
36. Cleaning/hygiene – Staff will be briefed on how to use PPE including decontamination and disposal. The gap between sessions will provide time for cleaning to be carried out.
37. Security/Stewards – Ranger staff to manage queue and manage visitors who haven't purchased a session ticket online.
38. Subject to securing sufficient supplies of PPE the toilets could be opened.
39. Social Distancing measures to be in place for use of the shower.
40. Information – new signage installed on site to ensure visitors are aware of the changes to the swimming arrangements to maintain Social Distancing and Lifeguard safety.
41. It is proposed to repurpose of the building used by the Lifebuoys as a changing space for the Lifeguards to provide additional welfare space and to allow for social distancing of our staff in their workplace.
42. Swimming for Children aged 8-15 is suspended.
43. Drinking water fountains will not be accessible.

### **Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond – Draft Proposals**

44. Move to online booking only to limit the number of swimmers using the facility and to eliminate cash handling. A range of booking limitations will be necessary

to prevent block bookings by individuals and to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to swim.

45. Introduce timed swimming sessions. This will prevent overcrowding and allow Social Distancing measures to be introduced at the facility. It will relieve pressure on use of toilets, changing areas as well as swimmers distancing in and out of water.
  - Session 1 - 07.00 - 08.00
  - Session 2 - 08.30 - 09.30
  - Session 3 - 10.00 - 11.00
  - Session 4 – 11.30 - 12.30
  - Session 5 – 13.00 - 14.00
  - Session 6 – 14.30 - 15.30
  - Session 7 – 16.00 - 17.00
  - Session 8 – 17.30 - 18.30
46. It is proposed that each session could facilitate 30 swimmers. This would need to be kept under review. The number of swimmers permitted access for the session would be able to use their time allocation for both swimming and sunbathing within the facility, whilst respecting the Social Distancing requirements. The changing rooms and indoor showers will remain closed. Social Distancing measures to be in place for use of the outside shower.
47. 30 minutes has been programmed between the swimming sessions to facilitate cleaning and preparing the facility for the next session. This needs to be trialled, as it may be possible to reduce this time and add a further swimming session.
48. Introduce a flow system to ensure Social Distancing at the facility:
  - A. Entrance queue – 2m spacing markers on ground.
  - B. Use the Millfield Lane for entry and exit. Temporary fencing will be used along access path to separate the entry and exit flows. This would require the back gate to remain closed. A simple timber open shelter will be necessary to provide a safe environment for the staff managing the entrance to the facility.
49. Introduction of Social Distancing to swimming:
  - A. One-way swimming anti clockwise.
50. Consider the use of the Meadows. Lower meadow could be used for changing.
51. Resuscitation and first aid – Guidance from the RLSS has been received.
52. Cleaning/hygiene – Staff will be briefed on how to use PPE including decontamination and disposal. The gap between sessions will provide time for cleaning to be carried out.
53. Security/Stewards – Ranger staff to manage queue and manage visitors who haven't purchased a session ticket online.
54. Subject to securing sufficient supplies of PPE the toilets could be opened.

55. Information – new signage installed on site to ensure visitors are aware of the changes to the swimming arrangements to maintain Social Distancing and Lifeguard safety.
56. Swimming for Children aged 8-15 is suspended
57. Drinking water fountains will not be accessible.

### **Hampstead Mixed Bathing Pond – Draft Proposals**

58. Move to online booking only to limit the number of swimmers using the facility and to eliminate cash handling. A range of booking limitations will be necessary to prevent block bookings by individuals and to ensure as many people as possible have an opportunity to swim.
59. Introduce timed swimming sessions. This will prevent overcrowding and allow Social Distancing measures to be introduced at the facility. It will relieve pressure on use of toilets, changing areas as well as swimmers distancing in and out of water.
  - Session 1 - 07.00 - 08.00
  - Session 2 - 08.30 - 09.30
  - Session 3 - 10.00 - 11.00
  - Session 4 – 11.30 - 12.30
  - Session 5 – 13.00 - 14.00
  - Session 6 – 14.30 - 15.30
  - Session 7 – 16.00 - 17.00
  - Session 8 – 17.30 - 18.30
60. It is proposed that each session could facilitate 20 swimmers. This would need to be kept under review. This is feasibly the most challenging facility to adapt to accommodate Social Distancing. The number of swimmers permitted access for the session would be able to use their time allocation for both swimming and sunbathing within the facility, whilst respecting the Social Distancing requirements.
61. 30 minutes has been programmed between the swimming sessions to facilitate cleaning and preparing the facility for the next session. This needs to be trialled, as it may be possible to reduce this time and add a further swimming session.
62. Introduce a flow system to ensure Social Distancing the facility:
  - A. Entrance queue – 2m spacing markers on ground.
  - B. A simple timber open shelter will be necessary to provide a safe environment for the staff managing the entrance to the facility.
63. Introduction of Social Distancing to Swimming:

- A. One-way swimming arrangement will be implemented, and the timber Lifeguarding jetty will be adapted with the addition of a ladder to provide the exit arrangement from the Pond.
  - B. Sunbathing – if Social Distancing permits, within the session time.
64. Resuscitation and first aid – Guidance from the RLSS has been received.
  65. Cleaning/hygiene – Staff will be briefed on how to use PPE including decontamination and disposal. The gap between sessions will provide time for cleaning to be carried out.
  66. Security/Stewards – Ranger staff to manage queue and manage visitors who haven't purchased a session ticket online.
  67. Information – new signage installed on site to ensure visitors are aware of the changes to the swimming arrangements to maintain Social Distancing and Lifeguard safety.
  68. Swimming for Children aged 8-15 is suspended
  69. Drinking water fountains will not be accessible.