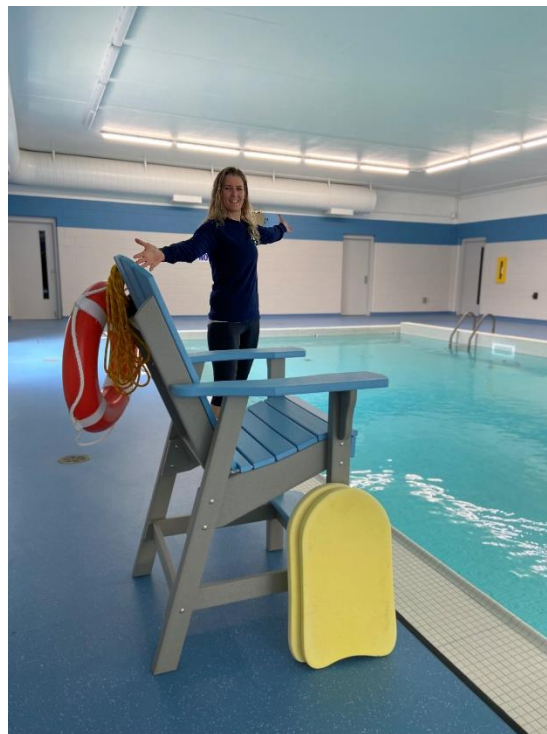




Pathways Health Centre for Children

Therapeutic Aquatics COVID-19 Re-opening Plan



Our commitment to ensuring a healthy and safe aquatic environment and service delivery plan through COVID-19

*Addendum to Pathways Pandemic Operations Update Document

Re-opening Plan: Updated Sept. 22, 2021



Introduction and Purpose

After being closed for the majority of 2020-21 due to the pandemic and due to the refurbishment project, the Pathways therapeutic pool is now complete, and with Public Health Inspector clearance, is prepared to reopen. Given the challenges of operations during the pandemic, a phased approach to re-opening will be undertaken. On June 11, 2021, the government of Ontario introduced the “Roadmap to Reopen”, the province’s three-step plan to safely and gradually lift public health measures based on ongoing progress of provincewide vaccination rates and improvements of key public health and health care indicators. **On September 22, 2021 the Ontario government implemented proof of vaccine requirements to access certain businesses and settings, which included pools.**

To support the planning of the Aquatics Re-opening, key staff have undertaken the following document/ website reviews:

- [Ontario’s Roadmap to Reopen – Aquatic Facilities NOW UPDATED](#)
- [Red Cross Aquatic Facilities Operations During COVID-19](#)
- [Lifesaving Society Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts – Revised Nov.2020](#)
- [Red Cross Swimming & Water Safety Training Ideas and Program Tips](#)
- [Guidance: Owners/Operators of Facilities for Sports and Recreational Fitness Lambton Public Health Revised Nov.18.2020](#)
- [Sport and Activity-Specific Considerations for Facility Operators and Organizers](#)
- [Lambton Public Health – Revised Nov.18 2020](#)

In addition, staff have:

- attended the Lifesaving Society Provincial webinar: “*Time out – COVID hits Aquatics - Where are we NOW?*”
- attended a pool re-opening meeting to share ideas and protocols with CTC’s across the province
- reviewed our opening plan and protocols with Lambton Public Health
- connected with our community partners to ensure consistency with protocol development.

The purpose of this document is to clearly communicate the directives and guidelines with regard to reopening Aquatic services at Pathways. This plan details the steps required, including policies, procedures and directives that have been revised or developed specific to COVID-19 that must be adhered to, in order to support the health and safety of all.

This document will be revised in response to new developments in the pandemic. The re-opening of Aquatic services will be done in phases and movement from one phase to the next will be determined in alignment with Public Health and Occupational Health and Safety directives, Ministry directives and directives of the Ontario and Federal Governments. This guidance document has been designed for use in conjunction with the Pathways Health Centre for Children and Aquatic Policies and Procedures. In the event of a conflict between this document and the policies and procedures, this document will prevail.



Communication for Reopening – Aquatic Services

Communication will remain a priority throughout the pandemic to ensure stakeholders are aware of pool re-opening plans.

Communication with Aquatic staff:

Communication will continue with staff through email as well as virtual and onsite meetings (respecting all required distance and PPE requirements).

Communication with families and community pool users:

Communication with families and community pool users will continue through our website and social media, specifically the Pool and Pathways Facebook pages. A COVID-19 Pool User Guide and COVID-19 Client and Family Information Notes will be provided for community pool users (updated as required). Protocols will also be posted on the Amilia online registration site.

Preparing for the Provision of Aquatic Services


The plan for the re-opening ensures that Pathways Aquatics Services will:

- maintain a controlled environment from screening entry to exiting Centre
- have staff with the training, competence and comfort in COVID operating protocols.
- have community messaging consistent with Pathways' current messaging
- follow and/or surpass best practices provided by Lambton Public Health, Canadian Red Cross and the Royal Lifesaving society
- align with CTC's best practices re: opening aquatic services
- monitor the activities of our partner pools and community COVID-19 environment based on Public Health Measures to support decision making related to programming
- offer a program schedule designed to ensure adequate supervision to ensure safety
- maintain a controlled flow of pool user traffic from building entry to exit
- have a coverage plan for staff absences to maintain consistency in operations

Planning a Safe Re-opening of Aquatic Services

The following information headings for this section are based upon the Lifesaving Society's Guide to [Reopening Pools and Waterfronts](#) and the Canadian Red Cross Aquatic Facilities Reopening Checklist (COVID-19):

1. Aquatic Staff PPE Requirements and Point of Care Risk Assessments (PCRA)
 2. PPE Access and Storage
 3. Pool User Requirements- PPE and Vaccination
 4. COVID-19 Reopening Plan and Pool Capacity / Bather Load
 5. Program Registration
 6. COVID-19 Screening Procedures
 7. Screening Station
 8. Pool User Traffic Flow and Changerooms
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9. Sanitizing Controls
 10. Use of Pool Equipment
 11. Emergency Procedures
 12. Staff Roles
 13. Staff Work Areas
 14. Clinical Therapy Session

1. Aquatic Staff PPE and Point of Care Risk Assessments (PCRA)

All Pathways staff are required to wear a cloth mask for entry to the building and movement throughout the Building.

All Pathways staff are required to sanitize their hands at the entry to the building (and regularly throughout their time in the building).

Once in the Aquatics office, a surgical mask will be donned for use at all times on the pool deck, and when in changerooms, pool office and lobby. **Masks may be briefly removed to drink/eat and maintaining a distance from others of 2 metres.** Eyewear protection is not recommended while actively supervising the pool because it may impair the lifeguards view of the pool area. Eyewear protection should be worn during tasks where physical distancing is challenging such as first aid.

All staff are required to review all Pathways COVID-19 operations documents.

All staff will be trained in the use and disposal of PPE using Public Health training materials by the Supervisor in consultation with HR.

All staff will be required to confirm that they have viewed the videos relevant to the PPE that they will be using.

All staff will receive a PPE lanyard guide.

At this time, Pathways employees will not accompany pool users in the pool unless it is an emergency.


In the event that staff feel there is a risk for exposure for an infectious agent, they will don the appropriate PPE. A Point of Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) should be completed by staff before every child/ client interaction to determine whether there is a risk of exposure as outlined in detail in the "Pathways Pandemic Operations" document.

2. PPE Access and Storage

All Aquatic PPE will be stored in the pool office. PPE for staff will be available from the Aquatic Supervisor. Typically, 1 surgical mask will be provided for each half day shift. Masks must be replaced once wet.

Emergency PPE bags will also be available on deck and in easy reach of pool staff if an emergency arises. The PPE bags will contain:

- Surgical Masks
 - Face Shields or Goggles
 - Gloves
 - Gowns
 - Hand sanitizer
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The Aquatic Supervisor will anticipate the volume of face-to-face services predicted for the upcoming 2 weeks in the aquatics service, in order to ensure stocks of necessary PPE.

3. Pool User Requirements (PPE and Vaccination)

As per Ontario regulations, Adult (18+) patrons accessing the Pathways aquatics facility for any purpose, including parents or guardians of children/youth participating in lessons/classes, must provide proof of identification and of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at the point of entry.

The Pool staff will review and confirm the proof of ID and vaccination. The staff may not retain any vaccine information provided by a patron, and therefore proof must be shown each visit.

An individual is considered fully vaccinated if they have received:

- The full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or any combination of such vaccines, or
- One or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada, followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada, or
- Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada; and
- They received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days before providing the proof of being fully vaccinated.

Exemptions

The proof of identification and proof of vaccination against COVID-19 requirements do not apply to:

1. Youth under 18 years of age actively participating in an organized sport such as swimming classes
2. Medical Exemption: Written proof of a medical reason must be provided by either a physician or nurse practitioner (or equivalent) authorized to practice in the Province of Ontario that sets out:
 - a documented medical restriction for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, consistent with guidance to physicians and nurses in Ontario by their governing professional body; AND
 - the time period which the medical restriction is expected to exist (i.e., permanent or time-limited).

Steps to Verification of Vaccine Status

1. Match the name and the date of birth of the patron listed on the vaccination receipt against the name and date of birth on a piece of identification.
 2. Verify the receipt is either:
 - a) an Ontario receipt issued at the time of vaccination or any format of receipt downloaded from Ontario.ca that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19
 - b) a receipt signed by an Indigenous Health Provider, or
 - c) a receipt from another jurisdiction that shows the holder is fully vaccinated against COVID-19
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3. Verify that the receipt shows that the holder is fully vaccinated.
4. Verify that the date of administration of the final shot in the series is at least fourteen days prior to the date the patron is seeking access to the business or organization.

Figure 1 Sample Email Receipt

1. Steps to Verifying Identification

Validation of identification must also be undertaken to ensure that vaccination receipt offered by the patron belongs to them. Validation of vaccination will be based on two key identifiers:


1. Name of the identification holder; and
2. Date of birth. A photo identification is not required.

Examples of identification documents that may be used to confirm the identity of the holder of the vaccine receipt include:

- Birth certificate
- Citizenship card
- Driver's licence
- Government (Ontario or other) issued identification card, including health card
- Indian Status Card /Indigenous Membership Card
- Passport
- Permanent Resident card

Validation of identification is considered to have been completed/successful when the name and date of birth of the presenter of the vaccination receipt and the name and date of birth on the identification document match. If the name and date of birth on both documents do not match, the individual will not be allowed to enter.

NOTE: Ontario will develop and implement an enhanced digital vaccine certificate with unique



QR (Quick Response) code and accompanying verification application that will allow users to securely and safely verify their vaccination status when scanned. Smartphone applications providing proof of vaccination will be accessible to people with disabilities and compatible with adaptive technologies, such as screen readers. A paper version of the enhanced vaccine certificate will be downloaded or printed from the COVID-19 vaccination provincial portal <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> or obtained by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

PPE- Unless exempt, all pool users are required to wear a mask to enter the building, while within the entrance lobby, changerooms and while on the pool deck. Masks do not need to be worn when showering or when in the pool. Pool users will be directed where to remove and store their mask while in the pool.

4. Reopening Plan and Pool Capacity / Bather Load

Gathering restrictions will limit occupancy levels within the pool area during this re-opening phase. After discussions with Lambton Public Health, we have determined that our pool capacity will be restricted as outlined on Page 6. This puts Pathways comfortably within the suggested guidelines from Lambton Public Health. Maximum users may change depending on Provincial Reopening directives. Changeroom capacity will be restricted according to the number of change pods available in each of the three changerooms and will reflect the type of program being offered at that time. (i.e. a family “bubble” with their own designated changerroom will have different restrictions than a community Adult Swim program).

Pathways Aquatics Reopening Plan	Lockdown STAY AT HOME ORDER	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3 (this step will be slowly implemented)
Pool and bather load	X	Up to 2	Up to 4	Up to 12
Wading Pool and bather load	X	X	X	1 person or 1 family group
Changerooms with distancing	X	✓	✓	✓
Showers with distancing prior to swim only	X	X	X	✓
Open for swim lessons	X	X	X	TBD
Viewing Gallery	X	X	X	TBD
Essential rehab therapy (by appointment only arranged by Pathways or community therapist)	X	✓	✓	✓
Daytime Trial -small groups by invitation	X	X	X	✓
Daytime use - general public	X	X	X	✓
Evening & weekend use- general public	X	X	X	TBD

During the re-opening of the therapeutic pool, Pathways will be focusing on providing safe opportunities for people that require essential aquatic therapies i.e. for mobility, etc. Additional aquatic programs will be re-introduced when it is deemed safe to do so. We will continue to work with Lambton Public Health and the Life Saving Society to assist in this reopening process to ensure that it is aligned with all necessary safety precautions.

NOTE: Aquatic programming options will be evaluated regularly and offered once it is deemed safe to do so. Updates will be communicated via email and posted on the Pathways pool website

5. Program Registration

During the re-opening stages, pool program options will be limited and will have reduced capacity. All pool users will register for programs through the Amilia online registration site currently used by Pathways. Clinical Therapists can call the Aquatic Supervisor in advance to book a pool time. Pool protocols will be posted on this site and all pool users will be encouraged to review the online (Pathways Website – Aquatics Tab) **COVID-19 Pool User Guide**. This guide can also be emailed to individuals, upon request. If people have difficulty with online registration, they can contact the Pool Office for assistance, however office hours are limited and someone may not be able to respond immediately.

6. COVID-19 Screening Procedures

The Aquatic entrance will be the single entrance/exit point for pool programming to allow for appropriate screening and tracking.

- All clients must pass a COVID screen on the day of the swim. An electronic screening tool will be used for the screening through the Amilia online system. Pool users having difficulty with the online screening process will be screened by phone prior to arriving at the Centre. When necessary, screening in-person can be done upon arrival.
- **At times**, the Aquatic doors **may** be placed on one-way control and clients will line up at the entrance following the two-metre spacing signage in front of the entrance doors no more than 15 minutes before their program begins.
- Pool users will be let in to the building one at a time and asked to wait on the distance marker to confirm/ complete the screening process.
- **The Aquatic Supervisor or designate will review the proof of identification and vaccination for anyone over 18 years old as outlined in section #3.**
- The Aquatic Supervisor or designate will review the screening list/ questions to ensure each person entering the aquatic area has passed screening before entering the changerooms. Tracking details must also be recorded: Date, name, outcome (pass or fail) and time of day. This log will be used if contact tracing is required. The content of the screening and tracking records must remain confidential with the Aquatic Supervisor, and be used only for tracking purposes of Public Health.
- If the answer to any of the screening questions is YES, the individual has failed the screening process and will be refused entry into the Centre. Screening staff will encourage the individual to contact Lambton Public Health for direction and support.
- The screener will also complete a visual check of any person entering the facility. Where there is any obvious sign of illness (vomiting, diarrhea, runny nose, cough or hoarse voice) the individual must be refused entry.



7. Screening, Vaccination Verification and Check-In Station

Self- screening should be done either online or by phone prior to arrival at the Centre using the QR code provided at the entrance. However, if required, staff who will be screening clients in-person must complete health screening training provided by Human Resources. Screening should be completed from the pool office behind the window whenever possible or the screener will be required to wear a surgical mask and a face shield.

When in-person screening and verifying vaccine status, is required, papers should not to be shared. The screener will record screening responses on behalf of the individuals and visually verify vaccine status.


The screening/ check in area will be set up in the Aquatic Office at the window and will meet following criteria:

- 2 metres distance between staff conducting check in/ screening and the person being screened
- Place visual markers on the floor to support physical distancing.
- Ensure signage identifying the check in/ screening process is posted outside and directly inside the building
- Ensure hand sanitizer is readily available in the screening area.
- Ensure all individuals entering the pool area complete hand hygiene (caregivers will be encouraged to sanitize their child's hands at the screening table)
- Ensure a box of masks, garbage bin and tissue are available

8. Pool User Traffic Flow and Changerooms

After passing the screening, pool users will be reminded to wear their mask except when showering or in the pool. Pool users will be directed by the screener to the appropriate changerroom and designated change pod.

1. Pool users will arrive pre-changed (bathing suits underneath clothing) and will be instructed they have 15 minutes to change within their designated change pod and leave their clothes there.
 2. With masks on, pool users will move to the shower area, place their mask in the designated area and shower. Pool users will then place their masks on and enter the pool deck.
 3. Once on the pool deck, and under the direction of the Aquatic staff, pool users will then place their masks in the designated place and enter the pool, using the ramp.
 4. Pool users will leave the pool using the ramp, don their mask and return directly to their changerroom. Users will not be permitted to shower after exiting the pool at this time.
 5. Hand dryers/ blow dryers, etc. may not be used in the change rooms at this time and labelled "do not use"
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6. Aquatic staff will remind the pool users that they have 15 minutes to change and leave the building.

9. Sanitizing Controls

During regular business hours, all high touch surfaces in the pool lobby will be disinfected a minimum of twice per day. These duties will be performed by the Pathways custodians.

Aquatic staff are responsible for sanitizing the changerooms and pool deck (hand rails, etc.) at least twice per day. Disinfectant wipes will also be provided in the change room for pool users to clean their area after use.

During non-business hours (evenings / weekends), Aquatic staff will be responsible for sanitizing the pool lobby and recording on the checklist.

10. Use of pool equipment

Essential pool equipment (life jackets, kickboards, etc.) will be provided to pool users on an “as needed” basis only. Accessibility equipment such as wheelchairs will be available to pool users and will be sanitized immediately after use as part of the pool deck sanitizing protocol.

Any equipment used by staff or pool users will be sanitized by:

- Immersing in the pool for 15 minutes
- Hanging or placing to dry until it can be stored
- Water wheelchairs will be sanitized using an approved spray sanitizing solution and paper towels

11. Emergency Procedures

Infection prevention and control during rescues and lifeguard interventions is essential to prevent transmission of illness. To support the safety of aquatic staff:

- Staff will wear surgical masks at all times and when guarding on deck
- Eye protection /Face shield is required if 6 ft of distance cannot be maintained
- Staff required to perform first aid will perform a Point of Care Risk Assessment. As a minimum, staff will wear a mask, goggles/face shield and gloves. A gown may also be required depending on the situation.
- In-water rescuers should dry off and don the appropriate PPE before assisting a victim with care. In-water rescuers should not wear masks in the water but may consider gloves.
- Emergency PPE bags will be available to aquatic staff when on deck. They will contain:
 - Masks
 - Face shields/goggles
 - Gloves
 - Gowns
 - Hand sanitizer

Additional information on how to respond to emergencies is found beginning on pg.33 in the [Lifesaving Society's Guide to Reopening Pools and Waterfronts](#)



12. Staff Roles for COVID-19

Opening Staff

- Must arrive masked to the main lobby entrance 15 minutes prior starting shift
- Sanitize hands and check in with reception to confirm screening for tracking purposes
- Proceed directly to pool
- Don surgical mask

Screener (Aquatic Supervisor or designate)

- Must arrive masked to the main lobby entrance 15 minutes prior starting shift
- Sanitize hands and check in with reception to confirm screening for tracking purposes
- Proceed directly to pool
- Don surgical mask and set up screening area
- Confirm that screen has been passed (if electronic) or complete screen of all individuals arriving for pool programs according COVID-19 Screening Checklist
- **Anyone over the age of 18 years, check proof of being fully vaccinated**
- Complete tracking sheet
- Ensure all tracking forms are handed in to Aquatics Supervisor at the end of each day

Sanitizing Support Staff (all Aquatic staff)

- Must arrive masked to the main lobby entrance 15 minutes prior starting shift, sanitize hands and check in with reception to confirm screening for tracking purposes
- Proceed directly to pool
- Don surgical mask
- Responsible for following the changeroom cleaning and disinfecting schedule for frequently touched surfaces after each use. This includes doorknobs, water fountain knobs, light switches, toilet and faucet handles, electronic devices and tables.

13. Staff Work Areas

The pool office will be limited to one staff at a time and the office high touch surfaces will be sanitized between users.

14. Clinical Therapy Sessions

Pathways Clinicians may request to use the pool for a therapy session with a child when it is deemed essential treatment. Requests must be approved by the Clinical Supervisor in collaboration with the Aquatics Supervisor. A family member or caregiver must accompany the child in the pool. Clinicians will not enter the pool but will provide support and direction from the deck. Alternatively, clinicians can provide therapy instructions to the client/ caregiver directly for them to implement independently in the pool. Clinicians should book appointments through the Aquatics Supervisor.

Clinicians from the community may also book 1-1 essential therapy sessions in the pool for clients and should book appointments through the Aquatics Supervisor. Fees will apply.



Refer to the [“Pathways Pandemic Operations”](#) (main COVID document) for more information regarding:

- COVID Transmission
 - Hierarchy of controls
 - Point of Care Risk Assessment
 - Personal Protective Equipment
 - Hand Hygiene
 - Cough Etiquette
 - Infection prevention and Control Training
 - Environmental and Equipment Cleaning/Disinfecting
 - Exclusion and Management of Sick, Suspected or Diagnosed COVID Clients, Family Members and Staff
-