

What to Know Before You Go



PARKS AND RECREATION

Modified Recreation Programs

We've modified our programs and taken extra precautions to make sure you and our staff stay safe while having fun. **By following the three W's, (Wear face covering, Wait for others and allow 6 feet, Wash your hands often)**, we'll cultivate a healthy environment where we can inspire, create, preserve together. These protocols may change based on guidance from public health agencies.

Programming

- We're able to bring back some favorite traditional recreation programs many scheduled outdoors, with shorter schedules and smaller class sizes.
- We've coordinated a number of new virtual online programs you can register for and follow along at home.
- For more details and the full catalog of our programs, [browse our listings and register online.](#)

Small Groups and Outdoor Play

These are the steps we're taking to keep you and our staff safe while having fun in our programs:

- We've modified many of our traditional programs to be held outdoors in the fresh air so we can easily stay distanced, including ceramic, art, and outdoor adventure programs. In addition, we've created a number of online virtual programs you may register for. (Check the program description to see if it's indoor, outdoor, or online)
- We'll have no more than 8 participants in programs being held indoors. Outdoor programs will range from 8-12 participants. We do have a few Family programs scheduled this fall that would increase outdoor programming capacity up to 23 participants, with adequate staff and maintaining 6 feet physical distance.
- In traditional youth programs, we'll have 2 staff for every 8 participants. Some specialty and virtual programs may have 1 staff for every 4-8 participants. We'll have ample staff to keep things clean and safe.
- When we are inside, we'll use larger spaces such as gymnasiums for active indoor recreation opportunities.
- We won't be providing transportation or taking field trips. Check program descriptions to see where the drop off and pick up locations are for off-site programs.
- We'll be cleaning program spaces before, after and during programs. This includes group space, common areas, restrooms, high-touch surfaces and any equipment you might touch in the program. We're also enhancing the full-facility cleaning we do every night.

What to bring

- Refillable water bottles labeled with your name on them.
- Face coverings. All participants will be asked to wear a mask, in accordance with the face covering mandate for Orange County and the Town of Chapel Hill.
 - We ask that you bring your own face covering from home each day. We'll have a limited supply on hand for those who can't.
 - Our staff is trained on how to use, remove, and wash cloth face coverings and will teach participants proper use of a mask as part of every program.
- Some programs may have a break for snacks or a lunch. Each participant should make sure to bring their own food. No food may be shared with other participants.

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Aquatics Activities

We have prepared and restructured our Aquatic facilities to be compliant with State NCDHHS and CDC guidelines, and we've ensured that our staff are rescue ready and well versed in facility disinfection and COVID-19 procedures. Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation will make every effort to operate these programs and facilities. There are circumstances that could force closure of a site, closure of multiple sites or closure of the entire program including but not limited to direct COVID-19 exposure to participants/staff at a site, a spike in community spread/transmission in the Chapel Hill area, or staff shortages. Should circumstances force a closure, we will communicate this information as quickly as possible.

A.D. Clark Outdoor Pool

We have prepared and restructured our Aquatic facilities to be compliant with State NCDHHS and CDC guidelines, and we've ensured that our staff are rescue ready and well versed in facility disinfection and COVID-19 procedures.

The A.D. Clark outdoor pool has now been closed for the off season. The Chapel Hill Community Center Pool will open for weekend swimming only (Saturday and Sunday), on at least the next two weekends (Sept. 26-27 and Oct. 3-4). Limited lap swimming and independent water exercise opportunities are available by reservation. You may purchase a swim pass or pay our daily visit fee at the pool upon entry.

We will continue with our planning to operate the Homestead Aquatic Center beginning in early October. Should this schedule be pushed back, we will update this page and the community accordingly.

- We have expanded our normal weekend operating hours to accommodate as many patrons as possible.

Click here to see our [Pool Schedule](#)

- Reservable swim times for lap swimming and independent water exercise are [available here](#).

Limited Capacity

- A staff greeter will welcome guests outside the entrance and issue lane assignments as well as go over facility procedures and expectations of our guests.
- Limited capacity in one hour blocks;
- The clock will start as the wave of four swimmers enter the building. Guard staff will alert lap swimmers with a short whistle blast when 15 minutes remain in their session and a long whistle blast will be used to clear the pool and alert lap swimmers their time is up and prepare to exit the aquatic facility.
- Once all guests are out of the facility, aquatics staff will have 30 minutes to disinfect the facility and prepare for the next lap swim time block.

Locker Rooms and Showers

- We will encourage guests to arrive and leave in their swimming attire to limit the use of locker rooms and congregating in public spaces. Locker rooms will be available, with limited showers and sinks marked for use to maintain 6' distance between guests.
- Locker rooms and restrooms will only be accessible to the approved maximum 25 guests on site, the general public will not have access to restrooms.

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Upon Arrival – Health Screening

- Staff will meet you outside for drop off and pick up; it might be curbside if the facility has space for a carpool line.
 - Participants and parents need to stay outside, either in your car or on a physically distanced marker, until staff have checked the participant in.
 - After the program, staff will walk participants out to their cars. Parents should wait in their car until their child is escorted out.
 - Only program participants will be allowed to enter the facility at this time. Parents and visitors will not be allowed inside. We encourage you to have your child dropped off and picked up by the same person for each day.
- Both staff members and participants will be required to do a [wellness screening](#) before entering our facilities. The screening includes a temperature check with a touchless thermometer and a few short questions about your health. We'll keep a record of the results.
 - Anyone, staff or participant, who doesn't clear the screening will not be allowed in our facilities. When dropping off a participant, parents or guardians should remain on site until your child's screening is complete. Plan for drop off to take a little longer than usual so we can get everyone safely screened.
- We may do additional screenings throughout the day. If a participant doesn't clear a later screening even though they cleared one when they arrived, they will be isolated until they are able to leave. Parents should keep their phones handy so they can be reached if they need to pick up their participant.
- Everyone who enters the facility, including staff and participants, will have to wash their hands as soon as they walk through the doors.

Maintaining a Healthy Environment

Know your Three W's (Wear your face covers; Wait 6' apart; Wash your hands frequently)

- Hand sanitizing stations are available at facility entrances and in the front desk areas.
- Face coverings are required in Town facilities and programs in accordance with local and state criteria; neck gaiters are not considered adequate face coverings by the Town Frequent cleaning.
- A physical distance of at least 6 feet will be maintained as much as possible.

Frequent cleaning

- Increased cleaning of group space, common areas, restrooms, high-touch surfaces like door handles and equipment. In addition, enhanced facility cleaning will be done overnight.
- The sharing of equipment and supplies will be kept to a minimum with sanitization occurring between uses.
- Frequently touched surfaces (e.g play equipment, door handles, sink handles) will be sanitized in between uses to the extent possible.

Respecting others space

- Reminders to avoid touching others, including but not limited to handshakes, fist bumps, and hugs.
- Reminders to cover your mouth and nose with your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Reminders to wash hands with soap and water upon arrival and frequently while in our programs. This will include after sneezing, coughing, blowing noses, or contact with any other bodily fluid, after being outside, before and after meals and after toileting.
- One way entry and exit to all areas will be created where possible.

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Eligibility Requirements

Equitable Opportunities

- In an effort to provide activities for families of all income levels, a variety of free and fee based programs are offered. For the fee based programs, fee reduction is available for eligible families.
- Select promotional and informational materials will be translated into languages recommended by Housing & Community, including Spanish, Burmese, Karen, and Mandarin.
- As a part of their on-boarding process, all staff will receive training in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In accordance with program modifications and guidelines, the following participant eligibility requirements are in effect for all Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation programs and services. All individuals must be able to:

- Maintain a safe physical distance of a minimum of six (6) feet from staff, volunteers, other participants, members of the general public, etc.
- Perform all aspects of personal care, to include but not limited to toilet hygiene, bowel/bladder management, changing clothes, etc. independently of staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Perform all aspects of eating or feeding independently of staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Self-administer any routine medications or medical care needed during program participation, to include but not limited to placing medication in mouth, applying medicated patch, utilizing a rescue inhaler, checking blood glucose, testing blood/urine for ketones, etc. independently of staff, volunteers or other participants. Exception: utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), as trained by a healthcare provider, staff will assist with administration of the following medications in an emergency situation only: Epinephrine injection for anaphylaxis, Glucagon, Diastat, etc. If emergency situations arise routinely and/or on multiple occasions, the participant may be dismissed from the program due to staff and resource limitations and recurring increased exposure risks.
- Practice positive hygiene related to personal cleanliness (using tissues for sneezing/coughing) and handwashing, including the ability to wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water and dry hands after washing, independently of physical assistance from staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Self-manage behaviors and reactions to a variety of situations and environments that may elicit various physical and/or emotional responses without the physical intervention of staff or volunteers, or without physical contact with other participants.
- Maintain specific proximity to the small group and/or staff as designated without physical intervention of staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Move safely in program environment, around facility and outdoor spaces on varied surfaces, on/off toilet, etc. without the physical assistance of staff, volunteers or other participants.
- Communicate illness/symptoms/etc. of self or others to staff.
- Understand that some staff, volunteers or other participants may wear face masks that cover the lower portion of the individual's face.

Eligibility requirements will be applied to all Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation programs and services until the recommendations related to COVID-19 have been removed or reduced. If an individual registered for a program demonstrates the inability to follow the requirements noted above, they may be removed from the program upon the first incident of violation and will not be allowed to return for the duration of the program. If the participant is removed, a parent/guardian will be expected to pick up immediately. The participant will be withdrawn from the program and a full refund for the remaining program dates will be granted.

Individuals should email Nikiya Cherry ncherry@townofchapelhil.org with any questions regarding the eligibility requirements.

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Handling Exposure and Symptoms

We understand the important role recreation plays in the lives of our residents and how recreation plays a significant role in supporting physical and mental well being among youth and adults.

- Each facility has identified space at the site that will serve as an isolation room. The purpose of this room is to remove any symptomatic staff member or participant immediately from the rest of the staff and participants at the facility until they are able to leave the building.
- If a participant becomes symptomatic they will be sent to the isolation room and monitored by a staff member until the parent/guardian can arrive at the site to take the participant home or to a medical care provider.
- If a staff member, participant, parent or guardian of a participant reports exposure to COVID-19, the affected individuals will be removed from the program immediately.
- All areas/materials that affected individuals may have touched will be secured until they can be cleaned and sanitized.
- The facility may be temporarily be closed in order to conduct heightened cleaning and implement further remediation. Going forward, physical distancing measures, the wearing of face coverings, hand hygiene, coughing/sneezing etiquette, and other protective measures already in place will remain and will be strictly enforced for our [recreation participants] and staff's protection.
- We will seek to inform staff, facility users and program participants that a confirmed positive case has been reported and exposure is possible. Transparency is crucial to us in order we maintain trust with our staff and community members.

Confidentiality: North Carolina law prohibits Department staff from disclosing information that identifies an individual who has or may have a reportable communicable disease. This information is strictly confidential and is not a public record. In the event that a program participant or Department staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19 or any other reportable communicable disease, the Department will notify the local health department as appropriate. Further information may be disclosed only as allowed by NC General Statutes sections 130A-143.