



Florida Swimming Pool Association
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For Immediate Release

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Your swimming pool, when used correctly, is a great way to get outdoors and to burn off some excess energy while still practicing proper social distancing. Schools are extending their spring breaks and moving to virtual learning due to COVID-19 concerns. The Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA) looks to remind parents about the top safety tips for children of all ages in and around their pools and spas.

Safety:

- If your child is not a strong swimmer, use proper flotation devices to help with flotation and confidence in the pool. Use flotation devices that are up-to-date and the appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) for their size, weight and age. Do not rely on toys or other flotation pieces as safety devices.
- Regardless if your child is using a safety device or not, never leave children unattended or unwatched. Take shifts with another adult watching children in the pool.
- Make sure that all proper safety equipment such as fences, barriers, covers and alarms are installed and functioning.
- Have a plan if something does go wrong - having a plan in place is key to reacting quickly and properly. FSPA suggests practicing your plan and double checking that your first aid kits and rescue devices are accessible. Have a cell phone on the pool deck that is charged and accessible in case of emergency. Remember to refresh yourself and others on rescue and resuscitation tactics.
- After things are back to normal, sign up for swimming lessons. Local instructors will be ready to enroll this summer.

Sanitation:

Sanitation is important at all times, especially so during COVID-19. If you are feeling ill, avoid the pool and pool deck. If you are healthy, follow the suggestions below:

- Shower off before and after your time in the pool.
- Wash your hands and the hands of children for at least 20 seconds after using the pool.
- Regularly sanitize all 'high touch' areas of the pool and pool deck such as ladders, gate latches, hand rails and door knobs.
- It is more important than ever to make sure your pool is properly maintained and that all chemical levels are up to par, preferably with your licensed and local pool experts. The CDC states that Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

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