



**For Immediate Release – Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

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### **DETAILS FOR COMMUNITY POOLS' OPENINGS**

**State College, PA:** The Centre Region Parks and Recreation (CRPR) Agency has been closely following and learning about the myriad of facility and programming requirements to reopen under the Governor's Green Status. We are actively working with our parent organization, the Centre Region Council of Governments, to create an opening plan to best serve our customers, employees, and the community as a whole.

As previously announced, the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Agency will be opening both the William L. Welch and Park Forest Community Pools this Saturday, June 27. The Governor and the PA Department of Health have provided guidelines for pool operations, along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other national guidance, and the Agency is creating strict protocols for our openings. It is hoped that as the season progresses, some of the protocols can be lifted.

To help everyone prepare for their first visit to the pools, here are some guidelines to help our customers:

- Please wear a mask when you enter the pool to be checked in, and whenever interacting with our pool staff at the front desk or on the pool deck. Please practice good hygiene; there will be soap available in the restrooms and anti-bacterial hand sanitizer at the front desk.
- If you have a season pool pass, your pool pass can be used at either pool.
- If you purchased a pool pass but have decided not to swim this year, full refunds are available through Friday, June 26. Once the pools open on Saturday, June 27, refunds will no longer be available.
- A new operating schedule is in place since group visits, private rentals, swim lessons, and swim team activities are not scheduled at this time. Additional swim time is available for lap swimmers, families with small children, and for pre- and post-work swims.
  - Weekdays: Fitness and Lap Swim (7-9 AM); Lap and Family Time Swim (children ages 10 and under; 9 AM-12 PM). General Swim (12-8 PM).
  - Sat., Sun., & Holidays: Adult Lap Swim and Toddler Time (children ages 3 and under; 10 AM-12 PM). General Swim (12-8 PM).

- Fitness Swim is open for those who want to walk the current channel or to exercise in the water on their own. The Agency is running two in-the-water fitness programs during this time which can be found on our website.
- Weekday Lap Swimming is open for all ages; anyone under 10 yrs. old must be accompanied by an adult (16 yrs.+). Weekend Lap Swimming is open to adults only (16 yrs.+).
- The 7-9 AM Lap Swimming will have all lanes open at both pools (8 at Welch Pool; 6 at Park Forest).
- The 9 AM-12 PM Lap Swimming will have four lanes open at both pools. Leisure swimming will be available in the leisure swimming area, spray areas, or leisure pool.
- There will be no more than two lap swimmers per lane, and each swimmer must start from opposite ends.
- Two lap lanes will be open each day at Welch Pool.
- Deck chairs will not be available; patrons should bring their own picnic chairs or plan to use picnic blankets/towels in the grassy area. Picnic tables will be available, and they are spread across the facility. Patrons should not move any of the tables as they are in place for social distancing needs.
- Sanitized life jackets will be available for use; signage will direct patrons from where to pick-up and to return a life jacket.
- The water fountains will not be available; this is not a pool-only issue. All water fountains remain closed at the pools and at the parks. Patrons are welcome to bring their own water/snacks/food, or purchase water bottles from the main desks.
- Lifeguards are charged with monitoring the pools for water safety; pool staff will be on the deck monitoring for social distancing in the water and/or on the pool deck or on the grassy lawns.
- The Welch Pool climbing wall will be available for use.
- For both pools, the diving boards and slides remain closed at this time. This is due to the inability to keep stairs, handrails, diving board railings, and slide entries clean and sanitized on a routine basis. Not everyone enters these areas directly from the pools (chlorinated water). As the season continues, we will evaluate this policy in hopes of allowing use in the future.
- Increased daily cleanings are scheduled every two hours with additional deep cleans of restrooms and locker rooms at least one time/week.
- Most importantly, pool staff will be monitoring capacity as the pools will be operating at 50% capacity. Please call the pools' front desks before you go to check capacity on particularly hot days (Welch: 814-237-3964; Park Forest: 814-238-4515) The Agency is exploring the use of an app that can help the Agency communicate capacity levels so that patrons can watch for that info., and choose which pool to go to or to decide to come at a different time. If capacity becomes an issue as the season begins, the Agency will look at instituting a timed swim system.
- If you have purchased a new pool pass this year, you will receive your new pool pass the first time you visit the pool; you can go to either pool to receive your new pool pass.

The Agency's main goal will be to provide a fun and safe pool experience while providing protective measures for all pool patrons. Again, while the opening restrictions may seem severe, it is our goal to ensure that we can operate safely. If we can relax the policies as the season continues, we will attempt to do so. We will continue to monitor national standards, state protocols, and best practices for operating swimming pools.

If you'd like the most up-to-date information, it is best to visit the Agency's website at [www.crpr.org](http://www.crpr.org). under our Urgent Alert and/or News & Updates Pages as well as the Aquatics pages where we have all of these policies posted. We will continue to update that information and share that news on our social media pages as well.

Please watch for new information on an announcement app (iPhone and Android) that will help pool patrons check-in regarding pool capacity so that they can plan their visits.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 814-231-3071 or [crpr@crcog.net](mailto:crpr@crcog.net),

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