

November 28, 2020

Swim Alberta Update as per CMOH Order 39-2020 (Order)

First, it is important to remember that on the 24th of November, 2020 the **Government of Alberta has declared a Public Health Emergency** to protect the health care system from COVID-19. This is the second Public Health Emergency as it relates to COVID-19 and the global pandemic, with the first one beginning on March 15, 2020 and expiring three months later. This speaks to the gravity of the pandemic crisis we as Albertans find ourselves in.

Second, rather than rushing to quick decisions or interpretations from press conferences and information shared on websites, Swim Alberta has a duty and obligation to ensure that we fully understand the full intent of all Health Orders before publishing any requirements or restrictions as it relates to training and return to swimming for affiliated clubs. To do otherwise and have to change a decision or requirement harms the credibility and integrity of the entire swimming community. The Order referenced above was published just after 7:30 pm on Friday, November 27th on the Government of Alberta's website.

The enhanced public health measures outlined in the Order supersede any requirements as outlined in the Swim Alberta Return to Swimming and Competitions Requirements Document (Version 8), and will remain in place until Swim Alberta is advised otherwise. Swim Alberta remains committed to aligning with all health requirements, both voluntary and mandatory as issued by Alberta Health and the Government of Alberta.

Enhanced Public Health Measures in effect for Swim Alberta clubs:

- Sport Cohorts and any previous requirements or guidance on sport cohorts remain suspended.
- All sanctioned competitions and non-sanctioned competitions remain suspended.
- As per section 23 of CMOH Order 39-2020 subject to section 25 and 26 of the Order, all persons are prohibited from participating in an indoor group physical activity with persons who are not members of their household. The Order further states (Section 24): for greater certainty, group physical activity includes team sports, fitness classes, and training sessions.
- As per section 25 of CMOH Order 39 -2020, Section 23 of the Order does not prevent a person from participating in an indoor physical activity under the guidance or instruction of one other person who is the person's coach or trainer. Swim Alberta does require a coach to be on deck, following physical distancing and wearing of a mask for any training/activity that occurs that falls under the governance of Swim Alberta.
- Clubs **MUST** ensure that gatherings of 2 or more individuals do not occur before, during or after an individual person participating in physical activity under the guidance or instruction of one other person who is the person's coach or trainer.
- Facilities may choose or may not choose to permit a person from participating in an indoor physical activity under the guidance or instruction of one other person who is the person's coach or trainer. Swim Alberta encourages all individuals to work closely with their local facility and adhere to all guidelines, rules and regulations they have in place.

The Government of Alberta communicated the following message directly to Swim Alberta: It's important to note that these measures aren't taken lightly and are part of a Public Health Emergency. Sport organizations are strongly urged to put things on pause.

One-to-one indoor training, such as training with a fitness trainer or coach, is permitted. This provision could provide an opportunity for “a coach” and “a swimmer” to participate in a training session or lesson at a facility that also permitted this activity.

[Link to CMOH Order 39-2020](#) Effective 12:00 am November 27, 2020. Parts 1, 2 and 4 of Record of Decision – CMOH Order 37-2020 are rescinded.

I appreciate your patience as we sought the confirmation and a copy of the final published Order. I know clubs are all anxious to understand how these new measures impact them and I am hopeful the information provided in this update will assist clubs in making decisions for the upcoming weeks.

Swim Alberta's technical staff – Steve Norris, Kevin Dennis and Jackie Cool will provide coaches with a technical update and guidance on how clubs can navigate through these next several weeks through program and resources for athletes.

If you have any questions please reach out directly to either:

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Stay well and be safe,

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