



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®  
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts*  
*Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

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## Information Bulletin – COVID-19 Update First Aid, Instructor, Lifeguard & Lifesaving Training

June 16, 2021

Dear Members and Supporters,

The Government of Manitoba issued new Public Health Orders effective from **June 12, 2021** until **June 26, 2021** ([https://manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-06102021.pdf](https://manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/proactive/20212022/orders-soe-06102021.pdf)).

Lifesaving Society Manitoba has consulted with Manitoba Public Health to clarify several areas of the orders, and to help address questions sent to us by members.

- Under these orders Indoor pools are closed to the public – this includes for swimming lessons or other public aquatic training [as per Order 16(1)]. Except as permitted under Order 18, all indoor sporting facilities, including swimming pools, must be closed while these Orders are in effect.
- Outdoor public pools, wading pools, and splash pads may open during periods of heat advisories as cooling centres.
- Outdoor hotel pools may open during periods of heat advisories for use by hotel guests only. Hotel pools may only open for use by non-guests/general public if the facility is in full compliance with Section 28 of the Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation (MR 132/97). Section 28 states: “Where the operator of a semi-public swimming pool other than a whirlpool allows access to the pool by the public or the pool is rented to a user group, the operator shall ensure that lifeguards and safety equipment are provided in accordance with section 23.”

Public swimming lessons may only occur as follows:

- Private swim instructors may go to a residence and teach swimming lessons only to the individuals who live there; 1:1 swim lessons may be provided similar to golf lessons. Group lessons are not permitted as per Order 4(6).

Public swimming lessons cannot occur at:

- a lake or other waterfront
- outdoor public pools or semi-public pools

These determinations are based upon Order 4(6), whereby:

“A business must not:

- (a) hold classes where group instruction is provided to members of the public, except as permitted under Orders 2 and 11; or
- (b) provide tours or recreational activities to a group of more than five persons unless all of those persons reside in the same private residence.”

- First Aid training and the training and recertification of aquatic staff may still occur as long as a facility/organization maintains strict adherence to the capacity size of the location as per Order 11(1). Order 11(1) requires a restriction to 50% of the usual capacity, and the total number of students in any classroom or other area of instruction does not exceed 25. Measures must be taken to ensure that there is a two-metre separation between all persons in the classroom or other area of instruction as much as possible. Furthermore, this Order refers to businesses and organizations offering the training in classrooms and other areas of instruction. This order **does not** permit training to take place in residential living spaces (apartment, condo, house, etc.).
- Indoor and outdoor pools may continue to offer Lifesaving, Lifeguarding, Instructor and First Aid training to their pool staff under Order 2(4). “This order does not apply to any gathering where persons receive training respecting first aid, emergency response measures or workplace safety and health protocols.” Order 11(1) restrictions for course numbers must be adhered to.
- Employers of Beach Safety Officers and Waterfront Aquatic Staff may continue to offer Lifesaving, Lifeguarding, Instructor, First Aid, and other emergency response training to their staff under Order 2(4). “This order does not apply to any gathering where persons receive training respecting first aid, emergency response measures or workplace safety and health protocols.” Order 11(1) restrictions for course numbers must be adhered to.
- Manitoba Public Health has communicated to us that in addition to all the information listed above they expect that for any training to take place, all previously published Lifesaving Society guidelines for evaluation and training must be adhered to. All these checklists and guidelines are available from the COVID-19 section of our web site (<https://lifesaving.mb.ca/member-services/covid-19-information/>).

Please do not hesitate to contact the Society if you have any questions, or if you need anything else.

Kathy Plett

Program Coordinator

Lifesaving Society Manitoba

## **Appendix A**

Examples of training allowed, and training not allowed, under the current health orders:

### **Allowed:**

1. An outdoor pool needs to have their slide attendants recertify their Bronze Cross awards. All of these attendants will be working at the facility this summer, assuming public health orders allow them to open. They have approached you to run the exam.
2. An indoor pool normally runs National Lifeguard and first aid recertification for the lifeguard staff at several outdoor pools in the area. Lifeguards from these outdoor pools have been hired by their respective pools, but need to be recertified. The Indoor pool has approached you to run National Lifeguard and standard first aid recertification courses.
3. An outdoor pool normally schedules a National Lifeguard course or a Lifesaving and First Aid Instructor course in the late spring every year to train their new lifeguard staff. They need these people to be certified to open this summer if public health orders allow. They have approached you to run a course for staff that have been hired pending passing the National Lifeguard or Lifesaving Instructor course.
4. The arena staff in the community rely upon the aquatic staff to run first aid training. They have several staff who need to recertify or take a first aid course.
5. A parent has asked you to teach 1:1 swimming lessons to their child at their backyard pool.

### **Not Allowed:**

1. A parent has approached you to run a preschool class at the lake.
2. You normally rent space at various pools to run swimming lessons for all ages and levels.
3. You have a waiting list of 13-year-old candidates for Bronze Medallion. You are feeling pressured to set up a course as soon as possible.
4. You have a group of 15-year-olds who are ready to take National Lifeguard. They are too young to work this year, but want to be ready to work as lifeguards when they turn 16 years old.