



Happy New Year! Despite the ongoing fight against COVID and its variants, the Aquatics Coalition is looking forward to another successful year from the swim industry and offers the following suggestions to ensure that facilities and pools remain open and safe. Working together we can provide reassurance to the public that swimming is a safe activity, and that we will remain diligent in our safety protocols.

- Continue to work closely with your government officials and your management teams to educate them on safety of and need for purposeful aquatics. Don't wait until the decision to close pools or restrict activities is made!
- Remember that COVID-19 is not spread through chlorinated water.
- Refer to your state/local guidelines to ensure that you're following proper protocols (for example, masks/shields, social distancing, occupancy limits).
- Continue to be meticulous with cleaning procedures and reintroduce safety protocols that may have been relaxed over the last few months.
- Work closely with your training providers and governing bodies to revamp and update your training as necessary.
- Meet with your staff and speak to them about their comfort levels and reassure them that their safety is paramount. Consider keeping your employees engaged through additional Zoom meetings.
- Clearly communicate with your customers any changes or updates to procedures as well as what is staying the same.
- Review all your current marketing and social messaging and update as required; for example, ensure photos include masked staff and rules that are current.
- Follow your state and local health jurisdictions' recommendations for isolation and quarantine of infected or exposed individuals. Local jurisdictions may be more restrictive based on local circumstances.
- Recognize that the current Omicron variant is different and take appropriate precautions to keep everyone safe. Refer to the latest [CDC Guidelines](#) for additional information and guidance.

We encourage you to use these valuable resources that remain applicable for this new variant:

- [USSSA Action Plan](#)
- [Recommended COVID-19 Positive Test Protocols](#)
- [Safety in Water Exercise Classes](#)
- [Aquatic Safety Plan – COVID Considerations](#)

Our priority is the safety, health and wellbeing of our customers, staff, and industry. For additional support and information please visit <http://www.aquatics-coalition.org/>

Stay positive, test negative!