



REOPENING EMAIL SERIES

Email 3: Swimming Pools, Locker Rooms & More

To our YMCA members, friends and community,

We have missed you and look forward to our reopening on Monday, June 22! We are finalizing our plan and procedures so that when our community comes together, each person is safe and comfortable.

Last Friday, Gov. Ned Lamont released the rules and regulations for fitness centers and pools to reopen in Connecticut. You can [read that here](#). We took those guidelines and are making any necessary adjustments to our plans, but most of what we've worked on is in line with what the state has asked of us.

Over the next two weeks you can expect several emails outlining Safety Protocols and Procedures that you need to be aware of. We will continue to make each email about a specific topic so that we can go into detail on each part of our buildings. We will also send out some branch-specific emails as we get closer with any unique things to know. We are conducting staff training and our Y team members will be ready to help acclimate you to the Y.

[The first email in this series](#) went over group fitness classes, personal training and small group training. [The second email in this series](#) reviewed gymnasiums and sports. This email, as you'll see below, is dedicated to our pools and aquatics centers. Future emails will detail our enhanced cleaning & safety protocols, as well as the training we have implemented for our staff. We continue to take input and guidance from our partners, such as Trinity Health of New England; the state; the CDC; and YMCAs across the country who have reopened before us.

One more note: We will be calling the YMCA's reopening procedures "Steps" to differentiate from the state's "phases." As many of you might have heard, Connecticut will enter Phase 2 on June 17, a few days sooner than planned. The YMCA of Greater Hartford's branches will enter our Step 1 on Monday, June 22. We will communicate with you on when Steps 2 and 3 will start, and what those will look like.

If you have any questions, please reply to this email, call our branches, or stop on by after June 22.

POOLS REOPENING IN STEP 1

We are excited to confirm: pools WILL reopen on June 22! All of our YMCA pools -- lap pools and recreation/warm water pools -- will be part of this Step 1, though there will be some changes. Please note that masks will not be required while in the pool, but are required for those on the sidelines.

Lap Pool

- One swimmer will be allowed per lane



- All swimmers must be seriously swimming laps; horseplay will not be permitted
- There may be in an "in" and "out" door in your Aquatics center, and the entry and exit to the lanes will be staggered.
- There will be 6-foot social distancing markers on the pool deck to keep your safe as you wait or walk on the pool deck
- We will request members to only swim laps for 30 minutes during times when there are people waiting for a lane

Warm Water, Recreation, Zero-Entry Pools

- Certain hours during Step 1 may be reserved for summer camp usage; schedules will be communicated before we reopen
- We will section off the pool to different parts to ensure social distancing
- We will have times and areas designated for adults and therapeutic uses; we will also try to have family times – see schedules for each branch
- We will request members to only utilize the pool for 30 minutes during times when there are people waiting
- There will be 6 foot social distancing markers on the pool deck to keep your safe as you wait or walk on the pool deck
- Parents on the deck watching their children must wear a mask at all times and remain 6 feet apart from those not from their household

Outdoor Pool at Camp Chase

- Camp Chase is reopening for members on June 22! Remember, this is FREE with your YMCA of Greater Hartford membership. Learn more about what Camp Chase has to offer as an outdoor center [here](#).
- Capacity for the outdoor pool at Camp Chase will be 50%
- We will be enforcing social distancing rules
- You can check if we are at capacity on [Camp Chase's Facebook page](#), or by calling 860-673-4321
- Hours will be: Monday-Friday 7am-10am and 3:30pm-7pm; Saturday-Sunday 12pm-6pm
- Pool closes 15 minutes before Camp Chase Outdoor Center's close of business

SWIM LESSONS, AQUA FITNESS, STEAM/SAUNA

Swim Lessons

We know how vital swim lessons are to ensuring children are safe around water. Especially as we head into summer, we know that it is our duty to protect children. Unfortunately, the state has decided that swim lessons where an instructor must come in contact with a child are not allowed. Therefore, we will not be having swim lessons in Step 1.

Especially as we head into summer, we know that it is our responsibility to protect children. We will work hard to get swim lessons going as soon as we are able. In the meantime, we have created several [safety around water videos](#) for you and your children to watch at home.



Aqua Fitness

Along with our on-land group exercise classes, we will not be holding aqua fitness classes in Step 1. We do not feel we can safely hold these classes and ensure social distancing at this time, but we are working hard to restart them as soon as possible.

Steam Room, Sauna, Whirlpool

Spa areas will not be open in Step 1 of the YMCA's reopening. This will include steam rooms, saunas, and whirlpools/hot tubs.

Swim Team

We are looking to restart swim teams as soon as possible. Families, please keep an eye out for an email from your coach in the coming weeks!

LOCKER ROOMS & SHOWERS

Showers

Based on the requirements from the State of Connecticut, showers will not be available during Step 1. However, while it is requested and highly recommended that members shower and change at home, we will be offering options to rinse off before and after using the pool where available:

- Downtown Hartford: Individual stalls in the locker rooms will be available for use to rinse off, and will be cleaned regularly according to State of Connecticut guidelines
- Farmington Valley: The pool deck shower, located in the spa area, will be open for use to rinse off
- Hale: There will be no option to rinse off during Step 1
- Indian Valley: Pool deck showers will be open for use to rinse off
- Wheeler: Pool deck showers will be open for use to rinse off
- Wilson-Gray: Showers will not be available during Step 1

Locker Rooms & Lockers

We know that you need a place to put your personal items while exercising or swimming. That is why we will be opening locker rooms during Step 1. However, there will be a limited number of lockers available as we must ensure that they are spaced at least 6 feet apart. Lockers that are not allowed to be in use will be zip-tied or closed shut.



VIRTUAL FITNESS CLASS OFFERINGS EXPANDING

As a reminder, in addition to our live Facebook classes and our [YouTube on demand videos](#), we have added daily live [Zoom classes](#)!

Our [Zoom schedule](#) will be in addition to our Facebook and on demand [YouTube videos](#). We want to make sure that if you can't make a class, there is ALWAYS something available for you, on your schedule!

If you have questions or suggestions, reply to this email or take our [Virtual Fitness Survey](#).

[Zoom Schedule](#)

[YouTube On Demand Classes](#)

Find your branch Facebook page in the footer of this email and request to join the Y at Home group!

Thank you again for your patience as we work on reopening. We appreciate you sticking with us, and will keep communicating as new information becomes finalized.