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Public Aquatic Venue Inspection Announcement

The New Mexico Environment Department, Environmental Health Bureau, is eager to announce that starting Monday June 1st 2020, inspections at public aquatic venues will begin. Given that not all public aquatic venues have been released by the Public Health Order to operate, not all aquatic venues will receive an inspection. The inspections will be based on the “Class” of the aquatic venue and whether the venue is setup for lap swim or instructional classes. Under the Public Aquatic Venues General Provisions 7.18.1 NMAC, the venues that fall under “Class A aquatic venues” are facilities that have been designed and operated for lap swim and instructional classes. All “Class A aquatic venues” will be given priority for inspections during the week of June 1st 2020.

All public aquatic venues that are approved to open for lap swimming and instructional classes as outlined in the Public Health Order (PHO), will be required to follow the CDC’s “Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19” ([link](#)). Public aquatic venues that are allowed to operate by the Order will also be required to not exceed 50% of their maximum occupancy.

Per New Mexico’s Public Aquatic Venues - General Provisions 7.18.1 NMAC, “Class A aquatic venues” are defined as follows:

- **“Class A aquatic venue”** means any public aquatic venue including, but not limited to, general admission pools, aquatic centers, recreation parks, schools, colleges and universities, organizational camps, daycare facilities, clubs, recreation districts, city, municipal, county and state pools and pools operated by other political subdivisions as defined by law. Class A aquatic venues shall not include pools located at boarding schools, colleges and universities exclusively associated with specific living units but would not be open to the entire boarding school, college or university population or the general public.

The Department has determined that lap swim and instructional classes will be defined as follows:

- **Lap Swim** means a venue that was originally designed with lane markings and lane separation float lines.
- **Instructional Classes** means an aquatic venue that was design for and already had classes available for the instruction of swimming, prior to COVID-19 restrictions. Based on the Public Health Order, these classes are to be limited to a ratio of two students to one instructor.

All public aquatic venues that are not a “Class A aquatic venue”, designed and operated for lap swim or instructional classes are to continue to remain closed based on the current Public Health Order (PHO).