



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

GREATER JOLIET AREA YMCA

Aquatics Department Health and Safety Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

OPEN AND LAP SWIM

1. Have the hours for open and lap swim changed?

Yes, please check the pool schedule for the facility you would like to visit. You can find the pool schedules for each branch of the Greater Joliet Area YMCA here: <https://www.jolietymca.org/schedules/pdfs/>

2. Will members need to make reservations for open or lap swim?

No, we are not requiring reservations to use the pool at this time. However, per state guidelines, we will be implementing capacity limits in each of our pools:

C.W. Avery Family YMCA:

48 swimmers in the lap pool

45 patrons in the family pool

Galowich Family YMCA:

36 patrons in the lap pool; maximum of 6 swimmers per lane

Smith Family YMCA:

36 patrons in the lap pool; maximum of 6 swimmers per lane

To encourage social distancing, lap swimmers sharing a lane will be encouraged to start and stop on opposite ends of the pool. Lane lines have markers every six feet to assist swimmers with spacing in the lanes.

Members are welcome and encouraged to call the Y before visiting to see if we are nearing capacity in the pool.

3. Has the swim testing procedure changed at all?

Very minimally. Children under the age of 15 will be required to test for a yellow or blue wristband depending on where they would like to participate during open swim. Upon completion of the swim test, lifeguards will direct parents to retrieve the appropriate colored wristband and place it on their child's wrist. JETS swimmers and Stage 7 swimmers who qualify for an automatic blue wristband will no longer receive a handstamp, but can instead get a specially marked blue wristband at the Membership Desk.

4. How will members be asked to practice social distancing in the pools?

While in the water, members will be asked to stay 6 feet or more away from other swimmers with whom they do not share a household. While waiting in line for the water slides at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA, members will be asked to utilize the stickers on the steps of the slides as a visual guide to maintain distance from others.

5. How will members be asked to practice social distancing on the pool decks?

To reduce crowds in the wet corridor at the C.W. Avery Family YMCA, members will be asked to use the door closest to the locker rooms to enter the lap pool, and the door furthest from the locker rooms to exit the lap pool. Seating on the pool decks is limited. Members will be asked to utilize circle seating markers as visual cues to maintain 6 feet of distance from other patrons sitting on the pool deck.

6. Do members need to wear masks or face coverings in the pool?

Face masks **should not** be worn by anyone while in the water. To stay safe in the pools, members will be asked to remain 6 feet away from anyone not living in their same household. Members and staff who are not engaged in swimming activities on the pool deck will be required to wear a mask or face covering.

SWIM TEAMS: JETS, MASTERS AND HIGH SCHOOL

1. How will the pool capacity affect swim teams?

Lanes will be limited to 6 swimmers per lane. Coaches will assign swimmers starting and stopping points to maintain social distancing at resting points between sets.

2. Will there be any other changes for swim teams?

When entering the pool deck as a JETS swimmer, athletes will be asked to bring all of their equipment to the deep end of the pool and wait on a social distancing floor sticker until their coach tells them it is safe to walk in a clock-wise fashion to the shallow end to set down their belongings. Swim team participants should bring a water bottle to practice. At this time, the water fountains at the Y will not be available, but the water bottle fill stations will.

GROUP, PRIVATE AND ADAPTIVE SWIM LESSONS

1. I see there is a new question at registration about parents getting in the water with beginning swimmers. What is this change all about?

In order for the Y's swim instructors to maintain a 6-foot distance from others, while also keeping new swimmers safe in the water, parents will be required to get into the water with beginning swimmers. This includes Stages A-3 for preschoolers, and Stages 1 and 2 for swimmers age 6 and up. This policy is the same for group, private, and adaptive swim lessons.

2. Can an older sibling get into the water instead of a parent?

Yes, if that older sibling is at least 13 years old, they may get into the pool in place of a parent. A parent must still be present on the pool deck unless the sibling is 18 years or older.

3. What should I do if I have two children who are both beginners but are in different stages?

If two adults (or an older sibling) are not available to get into the water with both children, we recommend registering both children for the lower swim level. One parent will then be able to get into the water with both children in the same class.

DAY CAMP SWIM TIMES

1. Will day campers still be able to swim this year?

Yes, each camp group has their own swim time reserved in the pool. Campers will be swimming with the same small group of kids and counselors that they will be with for all of their camp activities during the week.

2. Will day camp swim lessons be available?

Unfortunately, due to space and staff limitations, we will not be able to offer day camp swim lessons at all Greater Joliet Area YMCA locations this year. Please check with your local YMCA to see if day camp swim lessons will be offered.

WATER FITNESS

1. What is the capacity of water fitness classes?

To ensure members can safely practice social distancing, we will temporarily be limiting the number of people allowed in water fitness classes:

C.W. Avery Family YMCA:

12 participants

Galowich Family YMCA:

16 participants

Smith Family YMCA:

16 participants

Laminated class cards can be picked up at the Membership Desk.

2. How can I attend a water fitness class?

Members looking to attend a water fitness class should pick up a laminated class card at the Membership Desk. Once all cards have been given out, the class has reached capacity for the day. Please give your class card to the water fitness instructor when entering the pool deck.

VULNERABLE POPULATION SWIM (VPS) TIMES

1. How does the Vulnerable Population Swim (VPS) time work?

The Y will offer designated swim times at the C.W. Avery, Galowich, and Smith Family YMCAs for those members in vulnerable populations. During this time, members may enter the pool from alternative doors to limit their interaction with other members. Members choosing to use this option must present their Y membership card to Aquatics staff upon entering the pool. Members can also enter the pool through the locker rooms, if preferred.

C.W. Avery Family YMCA

VPS Swim Time:

8:30–9:15 a.m. on Wednesdays in the Family Pool

Members may enter the pool through the pool emergency exit door on Ottawa Street (near Ira Jones Middle School) or

through the family pool emergency exit door near Kids Corner. These doors will only be accessible for 15 minutes before the VPS swim time begins.

Galowich Family YMCA

VPS Swim Time:

11-11:45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Members may enter the pool through the glass doors in the lobby.

Smith Family YMCA

VPS Swim Time:

8-8:45 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Members may enter the pool through the glass doors in the lobby.