



Mission Statement:

Colorado Swimming is dedicated to competitive excellence in our sport.
We P.L.E.D.G.E to keep swimming fun.
Performance***Leadership***Education***Diversity***Governance***Excellence

Vision Statement:

Colorado Swimming aspires to enable our members to achieve excellence in the sport of swimming and in life.

Governor Jared Polis
200 East Colfax Ave.
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis:

We are addressing this letter to you on behalf of over 8,000 athletes, 69 teams (small business owners) and hundreds of employees, all members of USA Swimming here in the State of Colorado. Represented here are more than \$2Million dollars a month in lost wages and the facilities across our great state are losing more than \$1Million a month in facility revenues and even more in community impact. We offer purpose through water safety, exercise lap swimming, and competitive lap training for this group as well as many other community constituents. The facilities we refer to here are aquatic training centers in Colorado ranging from privately owned facilities, to community aquatic centers, High Schools, Universities, and selected other facilities that put their focus on teaching water safety, swim lessons, to competitive swim training for youth and adults.

We greatly appreciate the thoughtful approach and leadership you and your administration have taken regarding this coronavirus pandemic. We also want to offer that we have followed the lead you have provided and the insight your administration has put forward for all of us to stay safe in this challenging time. Collectively, Colorado Swimming leadership has focused on keeping our membership healthy and the business interests (Teams) in the best shape possible both Physically and Fiscally, using our best virtual methods over the course of the past few months. Good decisions on your part and ours have saved so many lives and preserved the livelihoods of many as well.

USA Swimming, it's affiliate Colorado Swimming Inc., the Athletes, Business Owners (Coaches and Teams), and all our employees believe that we can safely return to the pools today, following all social distancing rules and without negatively impacting the "Next" normal life for all Coloradans.

We offer the following scientific along with practical considerations for our request:

- The National Institute for Health and Center for Disease Control have shared that in properly maintained Chlorinated facilities, the virus cannot spread.
- Temperature based studies of the virus indicate that it will not live outside for very long and with Chlorinated conditions, it may be even less time.
- Swim training and Water safety training is most often a solo (sport) activity. This supports social distancing in facilities with proper planning and a reduced capacity of 25-50% of currently listed capacities at these facilities.
- Teams would return in reduced training group sizes to meet the new safe capacity levels as outlined by your safety mandates.
- Equipment does not need to be shared by athletes. They all have their own training equipment aiding in creating a safe environment for the athletes.
- Coaches and instructors will enforce social distancing rules and all planned health rules as per state health recommendations.
- Coaches will also where all proper protective equipment while also social distancing themselves from their athletes to maintain proper protective conditions.
- Coach to Swimmer ratios as established by Public Health guidelines will ensure proper social distancing conditions as well.



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- In General, most pool facilities have multiple egress points so they can maintain separate paths into and out of the facility supporting the concept of physical distancing.
- Strict restroom use guidelines will be in place to allow only one athlete to use a facility at a time, allowing for proper surface disinfection after each use.

Leadership and the members of Colorado Swimming truly believe that pools across this great state can be opened now for Lap swimming and by supervised groups of our membership in a safe manner. Moving to reopen these facilities in this phase of Colorado's reopening, will allow for an even grander sense of community and will support your commitment to a safe, ordered, and business centric reopening.

Attached (or linked) you will find a comprehensive re-opening plan of action put together by USA Swimming that supports proper education, planning, and execution of moving back to training for all our athletes while doing so in a planned, safe model for water sport and water safety for all Coloradans.

Colorado Swimming, its leaders, who represent many small businesses in your communities along with all our young athletes and future athletes respectfully request the allowance for pools to open and lap swimming, along with competitive swim practice to resume during this Phase of Colorado's Re-opening Plans.

Respectfully,

Tristan Cross – General Chair

Dale Ammon – Administrative Vice Chair and Western Zone Director

Jackie Stiff – Executive Secretary

Resources:

[USA Swimming Return to the Pool Guidelines](#)

[CDC guidelines for pools](#)

Example of teams safe distancing protocols

[Falfins](#) – Colorado Springs area

[MACS](#) – Denver Area