



**beyond  
swim**

# **Covid-19 Guidance: For open water venues**

(Version 8: 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021)

**For England only**

# Beyond Swim introduction

Beyond Swim is a partnership between Triathlon England, Swim England and RLSS UK, which has been developed to promote and progress open water swimming and safety within the sport. The partnership aims to provide appropriate resources and support the standards that ensure safe and compelling experiences for open water swimming participants.

This guidance has been developed through collaboration and input of all three organisations, with the aim of giving open water venues guidance on how to approach open water swimming in the current climate.

If you have any questions or require any support regarding your venue and open water swimming, please contact us at [hello@beyondswim.org](mailto:hello@beyondswim.org)

## Venue guidance

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Beyond Swim has provided guidance to open water swimming venues interpreting Government restrictions for application in an open water swimming context.

From Monday 19 July, England moves to Step 4 of the Government's "Roadmap", the point at which most legal restrictions are being removed by Government. However, we must reflect that Covid-19 itself has not gone away and whilst vaccinations are helping to reduce the most severe impacts upon people, individual and collective responsibilities still remain.

Whilst legal restrictions may be removed at Stage 4 of the Roadmap, there are some elements of previous guidance that venues **MUST** retain for the future, some elements that venues **SHOULD** retain for the future and some elements that venues **COULD** retain for the future. This document sets out each of those elements.

If you are a venue that is interested in BEYOND SWIM Venue Accreditation for 2021 or are seeking additional guidance on how to set up and operate your venue for open water swimming, please email [hello@beyondswim.org](mailto:hello@beyondswim.org). Venue operators are required to consider additional Covid-19 requirements for their venues as part of BEYOND SWIM accreditation.



## Venues must:

- 1) Adhere to all legal requirements and Government guidance
- 2) Ask your insurance provider to establish if your insurance cover remains in place for delivering activity and to identify if they have any additional requirements for you to put in place, as a result of moving to Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap.
- 3) Refresh your venue risk assessment or Covid-19 risk assessment if you developed one.
- 4) Maintain the position of "Covid Officer" to oversee continued good practice and hygiene around the venue. Beyond Swim have developed a Covid-19 Officer example role descriptor that you can adjust for the venue, please email [hello@beyondswim.org](mailto:hello@beyondswim.org) to request this.
- 5) Continue to promote good hygiene and consideration for others – including regular hand washing and sanitising. Ensure that washing/sanitisation facilities are available.
- 6) Identify if there are any changes to how your safety team will perform a rescue, as a result of moving to Step 4 of the Government's Roadmap. If there are any changes, please update your NOP/EAP accordingly.
- 7) Collect contact details of those attending the venue. These should be kept securely for at least 21 days in case required by Test and Trace.
- 8) Require participants to undertake pre-session symptom checks and not to attend where they have symptoms, test positive or are advised to self-isolate.
- 9) Communicate updated plans to all swimmers and staff.
- 10) Any equipment that is available for hire must be washed or sanitised immediately after use, before it is used again.

## Venues should:

- 1) Consult with swimmers to understand how they feel about the removal of restrictions and implement recommendations to support swimmers.
- 2) Consider maintaining social distancing measures around sessions, including arrival and departure.
- 3) Continue to help encourage swimmers to avoid the sharing of equipment and to bring their own, wherever possible. Ask swimmers to thoroughly clean equipment after use and especially where sharing is needed.
- 4) Consider the use of face coverings in crowded/indoor areas (e.g. changing rooms, sign-in area).
- 5) Encourage swimmers to regularly take Covid-19 tests (lateral flow) regardless of any symptoms, and to follow Government guidance in the case of a positive result.
- 6) Ask all swimmers to re-declare suitability/fitness to participate.

## Venues could:

- 1) Continue with the pre-booking of swim sessions.
- 2) Continue to avoid use of cash by maintaining electronic payments where possible.
- 3) Continue to keep staff car parking separate from swimmer car parking.

## Beyond Swim support:

Our Beyond Swim team are available to provide further support. They should be viewed as a “critical friend” to help venues work through their planning and operations, including adjusting risk assessments and action plans. If you have any questions or require any additional support, please contact us [hello@beyondswim.org](mailto:hello@beyondswim.org)