

COVID FAQs

Will the pool open on Memorial Day weekend? Due to Montgomery County's Stay at Home Order, we are unable to open the pool at this time. Therefore, we will not be opening Memorial Day weekend.

Will the pool open when the Stay at Home Orders are lifted? Based on Maryland's Roadmap to Recovery, after the lifting of the Stay at Home Order we will be in the Phase 1 of the reopening strategy, but pools will not be opened until Phase 2. So, no, the pool will not be able to open when Montgomery County lifts the Stay-at-Home order.

Will members have an opportunity to weigh in on whether the pool opens or remains closed?

Yes! A survey will be sent to members to gauge interest when the time is appropriate. When Montgomery County enters Phase 1, we will likely get a better sense of timing. With that we will also be able to assess our income vs expenses based on how many days in the summer are remaining, what additional costs we would incur to open (cleaning, staff, equipment), and the risks vs. benefits. In the meantime, be assured that Lighthouse, our pool management company, is working with us to keep expenses minimal while also ensuring our pool's integrity.

If the pool doesn't open, will I receive a refund of my membership dues?

Per the [Pool Bylaws](#) (Section XVIII), dues are not refundable; however, the board has decided it would be appropriate to consider crediting members with a portion of the dues if it is financially feasible to do so. Any decision on whether or not to credit a portion of this year's membership dues to next year and the specific amount will not be made until after what would be the "close" of the normal season (i.e. September 2020) when the board has the full picture of the costs and a better understanding of any additional operating costs required to operate the pool on a prospective basis.

Why can't we be credited our full membership dues minus the capital assessment if the pool is not opening?

Regardless of when or if we open, our pool management company needed to move ahead with repairs, inspections and hiring for the summer season because postponing these important steps means running the risk of not being able to open the pool when it is deemed safe to do so.

Most outdoor pools moved forward with pre-season preparation and the Montgomery County Health Department is planning pre-inspections. In the likely event we have a delayed opening or closure, we'll need to consider the costs incurred for this pre-season work as well as periodic maintenance and monitoring throughout the summer to ensure the integrity of our pool for summers to come.

In addition, although our pool is in great shape and structurally assessed each year, it is over 50 years old. This is at the high end of the longevity of most pools. If our pool was to be left unattended (empty and uncleaned) for over 18 months, it would potentially increase the risk of damage. We are mindful that we want our pool to be around for many years to come, and are taking all precautions to ensure this to the best of our ability. This was another factor in our consideration to do pre-season prepping.

If/When the pool opens what can be expected?

There are many factors to consider and while we are unable to provide specific details due to ever-changing guidelines and protocols, we can say that it will be a VERY different experience than our normal, carefree summer. As the board has reviewed a variety of resources, if an opening is possible, these are **some but not all** of the protocol you may see in place:

- Masks required at all times members are not in the water.
- No access to pool furniture/picnic tables - Bring your own chair/blanket
- Dedicated time slots for families to enter the pool for 1.5-2 hours
- Limited use of bathrooms (members must alert guards when using) and cleanings after each use; no showers
- Periodic closings between designated time slots for extensive cleaning of all surfaces
- No extra activities/equipment available such as basketball, volleyball, tetherball, pool toys, kick boards, baby toys
- Waiver signed by all families demonstrating an understanding of the risks and liabilities
- Age restrictions on pool use without adult supervision, likely 18 years of age.

What if I choose not to come to the pool if/when it opens? Can I get a credit based on this decision?

Our swimming pool association is a club in which we are all members and effectively joint owners. The pool is not a 'fee for service' organization where you are purchasing a 'season' pass like an amusement park. As owners, we all share in the financial success or difficulties of the organization. Therefore, if the pool opens, regardless of your individual usage (by choice or time limitations), all members have a responsibility in its operating costs.

What extra precautions/protocol will likely be in place to ensure the safety of members if/when the pool opens?

- Staff and Members will take responsibility for not coming to the pool if they are feeling ill, showing signs of COVID-19, or been exposed to someone with COVID-19
- Staff and lifeguards will wear masks at all times they are not in a lifeguard chair
- Timed entry and social distancing guidelines will be in place and required to be followed by members. Members failing to follow all prescribed protocols can have their membership suspended for the remainder of the summer.
- Intensive cleaning will take place on all surfaces at the pool in between each designated time slot, as well as a daily deep clean at the end of the day. Such cleanings may cause an increase in operating costs of the pool.
- No contact entry; plexiglass structure around front desk
- Social distancing within the pool and only family members who have quarantined together shall play/congregate together.

Will the swim and dive teams get some of the money from dues if we don't open or have a season?

Our Swim and Dive teams are a very important part of our pool. They encourage membership and build morale among members and the community. Both teams operate entirely based on the income they receive from registrations, as well as snack shops they offer at their meets. The board is supportive of capital investments for the team such as the diving boards and lane ropes, but ultimately it is the goal of the team to be self-sufficient with their expenses including coach salaries and team supplies. The pool only subsidizes the short fall. It is therefore up to

the teams to determine how they wish to address their coaches during these challenging times. Coaching is a 'seasonal job' and therefore dependent on the swim/dive team being available to the members for the season.

What can NCCSPA do to support our community when the pool is not an option?

For years, NCCSPA has been a place of gathering, food, and fun. We've had a very active social committee over the last several years and we're confident there are many new ways to help our community stay connected while we're away from the pool.

Gatherings? Think Social Zoom hour. For adults? For teens? Tweens? Kids?

Food? Food trucks are dying for business. We can try to arrange a few to stop by so you can get your evening grub--while distancing 6 feet and wearing your mask, or pre-ordering where available.

Fun? Why not take it virtual! Zoom trivia night? Virtual Book Clubs? Youth scavenger hunts and games by zoom.

There are many opportunities and we are eager to be creative and hear your ideas.

Why didn't we apply for a PPP loan?

NCCSPA is a 501(c)(7) non-profit organization designated for Social and Recreational Organizations. The PPP loan is only available to 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) non-profits.

Additionally, the PPP loan is a 'Paycheck Protection Program'. NCCSPA does not have any employees, thus, no payroll. Our Administrative Manager, Barbara Gallo, is a contractor and all our lifeguards and coaches are paid through Lighthouse Pool Management. Our annual contract fee paid to Lighthouse includes their management fees as well as funds used to support the paychecks of lifeguards and team coaches. Specifically, money collected from team registrations is processed through NCCSPA to Lighthouse for their paychecks.