



## An Update on Plans to Reopen the Ponoka Aquaplex for Limited Public Use

(April 7, 2021 – Ponoka, Alberta) – New provincial health restrictions announced yesterday do not impact the Town of Ponoka's plans to reopen the Ponoka Aquaplex today for limited use with restrictions in place due to COVID-19. The Aquaplex will reopen as planned for small-group lessons, private and semi-private lessons, Junior Lifeguard Club and private facility rentals in accordance with current provincial health regulations and guidelines.

All of the activities that the Aquaplex will be offering are permitted under Step 1 of the provincial government's COVID-19 health restrictions.

### Swim Lessons and Junior Lifeguard Club Begin April 16

Registration is open for Junior Lifeguard Club and swim lessons for Pre-school levels up to Swim Kids 6. Swimming lessons and JLC classes begin April 16. Only three or four children will be permitted in each swimming lesson due to provincial COVID-19 restrictions under Step 1. A caregiver, aged 16 or older, will be required to accompany children into the water for all Pre-school lessons and Swim Kids 1-4.

All lessons and rentals must be booked in advance. To register and pay for swim lessons, JLC or to book and pay for private lessons or facility rentals, please visit the Town website at [www.ponoka.ca](http://www.ponoka.ca) and click 'Aquaplex' under 'Popular Pages' or click the following link: <https://www.ponoka.ca/visiting/recreation/aquaplex>.

If you need assistance with bookings or making an online payment, please phone 403-783-0131.

### Private Lessons

Private facility rentals as well as one-hour private and semi-private lessons are available beginning April 7. Private facility rentals have been reduced in price from \$110 per hour to \$46 to encourage more families to use the Aquaplex on weekdays. Only guests living in the same household are permitted to share a private booking.

The hot tub and wading pool will only be open for private household rentals at this time. The rope and diving board will remain unavailable. To view the Aquaplex pool and swim lesson schedules and rates, please visit <https://www.ponoka.ca/visiting/recreation/aquaplex>.

### Additional COVID-19 Measures

To help protect the health and safety of visitors and Aquaplex staff, the following additional COVID-19 safety measures will be in place to help prevent the spread of the virus:

- Swimmers are asked to arrive no more than five minutes before their scheduled times;
- Guests are required to come dressed for swimming as change room and locker access will not be available prior to using the pools;
- Swimmers will be required to have a soapy shower on the pool deck before entering the pools;
- Occupancy limits will be in place for the pools and deck, along with one-way traffic flow measures for the lobby and pool deck;



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- There will be time-limited access to change rooms upon leaving the pools and blow dryers are not permitted;
- Facility users will be required to use available hand sanitizer upon entering the building and follow physical distancing requirements;
- Aquaplex users must sign in at reception to ensure contact information is available for notification purposes should an outbreak occur;
- Visitors at Town facilities are urged to stay home if they have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath; if they have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days; or if they have been in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

***For the most up-to-date information on the reopening of Town facilities, please visit the Town website at [www.ponoka.ca](http://www.ponoka.ca). If you have questions, please phone the Town Office at 403-783-4431 or the Aquaplex at 403-783-0131.***

***In accordance with provincial health restrictions, the Town Office remains closed to the public but is open for business by phone at 403-783-4431, by email at [town@ponoka.ca](mailto:town@ponoka.ca), or online at [www.ponoka.ca](http://www.ponoka.ca).***

***For more information on how you can help protect yourself and others against the spread of COVID-19, please visit [www.alberta.ca/COVID19](http://www.alberta.ca/COVID19).***

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