

ATTENTION POOL & HOT TUB INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

As more information on COVID-19 is being disseminated by the federal, state and local governments, there has been a push to classify industries as essential or non-essential. Those deemed as essential can continue to operate as quarantines and restrictions are put in place.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19. Additionally, the World Health Organization states that controlling water quality is necessary to prevent the transmission of infectious diseases.

PHTA firmly believes the companies that supply pool sanitization and disinfection materials (through manufacturing, distribution or retail stores), the companies that manage the maintenance of swimming pools, hot tubs and other artificial bodies of water and the companies currently constructing inground pools and spas are essential to preventing the transmission of infectious diseases, helping maintain community health, and ensuring public safety.

Without proper pool and hot tub maintenance (which includes circulation and treatment of water) various pathogens can grow, such as Pseudomonas, Cryptosporidium, E. Coli, Shigella, etc. It can also create a breeding ground for mosquitoes, other pests and the diseases they may carry, which presents a risk not only to bathers but to the entire community at large.

Additionally, it is critically important that active inground pool and spa projects be completed. Unfinished projects pose significant public safety risks as potential issues such as cave-ins and pool popping, as well as the dangers resulting from an active construction site. And, the impact of long-term exposure to the elements may result in the community health issues noted above.

As children and families across the country are being asked to reduce outside contact or even shelter at home, and with gyms and other public facilities closing, the backyard pool, spa or hot tub provides the ideal way for families to focus on their health and well-being. These pools and hot tubs should be properly maintained to ensure proper sanitation measures are taking place.

Please tell your lawmakers that the companies who provide pool maintenance and service, are currently constructing a pool or spa, or are supplying the sanitization and disinfection materials should be considered essential.