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It's Summer: Pools are Open

By Jolynn Young, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

It's summer, school's out, and the weather is heating up. Are you ready for some summer water fun? This pool season may look different as COVID-19 health and safety protocols are implemented, although a more relaxed atmosphere is anticipated as we aim to return to our usual summer lifestyle.

Public pools are reopening following city guidelines after the societal changes due to strict COVID guidelines from last year. A few public pools may still require masks, have limited hours, and restricted use of pool amenities, such as diving boards, slides, and dressing rooms. To limit crowd capacity, some public pools may require prior registration. The popular spring-fed Barton Springs Pool in Austin is currently requiring reservations. During the summer season, the City Parks and Recreation Departments will adjust operations according to City COVID-19 Risk Based Guidelines in consultation with public health authorities. For more information on public pool hours, class and lesson schedules and other programming in your area check out:

- <https://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksAndRec/Home>
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/pools-splash-pads>
- <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class>

Swimming is a fun, cool, seasonal summer activity for all ages. Stay safe in and around water by being aware of some water safety tips:

- Never leave a child unattended in or near water: Although a lifeguard may be present, an adult should be in charge of supervising children in the water at all times.
- Enroll children in swimming lessons; there are many free or reduced-cost options available from your local YMCA or Parks and Recreation Department.
- Do not allow children to play or swim near drains or suction outlets. Children may be unaware that their hair, hands, and feet can get stuck in a drain or suction opening. Teach children to stay away from drains and make sure all pools have compliant drain covers.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults. CPR can help save a life: Get CPR-certified through your community center or the American Red Cross.

Swimming is an all-time perfect summer recreation for all ages: To enjoy and avoid accidents always keep basic safety in mind, because it only takes a moment...