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Recommendations for swimming in the sea and inland surface waters during the COVID-19 epidemic

These recommendations relate to the implementation of measures applied to swimming in the sea and inland surface waters during the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic in order to protect staff and visitors.

1. General recommendations

Visible notices and informing the guests. It is necessary to place information concerning hygienic procedures and guidelines on proper behavior and protective measure which should be followed, or which apply in that area, in a visible place at the entrance as well as in the area where visitors are staying. If appropriate infrastructure is available, a public address system can be used to periodically play voice messages in order to remind visitors of the necessity to maintain physical distancing and other general measures.

Maximum number of persons at the premises. The maximum number of people allowed at the sea and freshwater bathing areas at the same time is determined in accordance with the principle of 15 people per 100 m² of net area.

Physical distancing. All visitors and employees are advised to comply with the physical distancing rule of 1.5 meters.

General and hygienic measures. General measures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 are available at: <https://bit.ly/3cp9lvi>. Recommendations for complying with all preventative measures relate to all sea and freshwater bathing areas (water surfaces, beaches, and areas where locker rooms and toilets are located).

2. Spatial and technical requirements for sea and freshwater bathing areas

Hand disinfection. It is necessary to place disinfectant dispensers at reasonable intervals and in visible places (e.g. alcohol-based with a concentration of at least 70% or other agent with declared virucidal properties pursuant to the manufacturer's instructions and which can be safely used on the skin).

Physical distancing. The concessionaire must separate deckchairs so that the physical distance of 1.5 meters is ensured (ensure that a person is present who can supervise the prescribed measures), and disinfect the deckchairs several times per day, especially after an individual guest is no longer using the deckchair and before another guest uses it. If there are other seating options at the bathing area, they also have to be arranged so that they are placed 1.5 m away from each other.

Waste disposal. It is recommended that waste bins with appropriate lids are placed in all open spaces of the bathing area, as well as at reasonable intervals in other open spaces.

Water usage. Maintain a physical distance of 1.5 m while swimming.

Conditions for maintaining the hygiene of sanitary facilities. It is necessary to increase the cleaning and disinfection frequency of sanitary facilities to every two hours (and more often if necessary), and to increase the number of employees responsible for daily cleaning in each sanitary facility. Restrict the simultaneous use of a sanitary facility in accordance to its size and prescribed sanitary conditions.

3. Food and beverage service areas and shopping facilities in sea and freshwater bathing areas

Hospitality facilities. Instructions for hospitality facilities are available at the CIPH's website: <https://bit.ly/3cmqCoK>

4. Regular monitoring of recreational waters: The monitoring is conducted by the employees of the competent Institute of Public Health, i.e. the authorized laboratory in accordance with the Plan and Program for Monitoring Sea Beaches and Inland Bathing Areas.

The laboratory employees, who are sampling and analyzing the water, must adhere to the usual protective and security measures while taking samples and analyzing, and comply with the professional standards of conduct, general protective measures and general recommendations in regard to maintaining physical distance and personal hygiene.