



Dear Parents, Carers and Swimmers

Return to Swimming: Satellites' Pool Protocols

We are delighted to be able to welcome swimmers back to the pool this summer at Bollington Leisure Centre and Macclesfield Leisure Centre (with time at Kings School Pool to follow).

In the meantime, we are writing to give you information about the steps we are taking to ensure swimmers' and staff safety during the return to swimming. These steps are based upon the guidance provided by Swim England, and which you can find at <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/pool-return-guidance-documents/>. We have also consulted with Bollington Leisure Centre and will be following their rules for swimmers at all times. You can find details of Bollington Leisure Centre's requirements here <https://bollingtonleisure.co.uk/re-opening-plan/>.

Everybody Sport & Recreation who manage Macclesfield Leisure Centre are yet to publish any formal guidance, but we there is information later in this document with the agreed protocols for returning to swimming at Macclesfield. It is largely the same as for Bollington just with some site-specific details.

We will ensure that all our safety measures are updated to take account of any change to Swim England's guidance and will keep you updated of any changes or amendments to our procedures. We may also adapt our procedures as we learn more – this is a learning curve for all of us, so please understand if we have to change some of the ways in which we operate for the safety of swimmers and coaches.

Please can all swimmers make sure that they read the guidance and listen to the advice of coaches and the staff at Bollington Leisure Centre and Macclesfield Leisure Centre. If we or they feel that a swimmer is not following guidance or social distancing, we may have to ask them to leave the pool.

Before we can allow your swimmer access to the pool, we need you to acknowledge that you have received this communication and read it.

1. Covid-19 Symptoms

Swimmers **must not** attend training if they have any Covid-19 symptoms or know that they have been in contact with others that have symptoms. We may ask swimmers as they arrive to confirm that they do not have symptoms and that they have not been in contact with others who have symptoms, and take a note of this confirmation. If we believe that a swimmer has symptoms of Covid-19 or is returning to swimming too early after having Covid-19, we will refuse entry to that swimmer.

Prior to training, we will ask each swimmer and the coaches and anyone else working poolside to sign a declaration form stating that they are symptom free. We will send this declaration form to you separately.

2. Arrival and Departure Protocols

Bollington

Swimmers should arrive at the pool wearing their kit under suitable clothing, no more than 5 minutes before their session is due to start.

At Bollington, the showers will remain closed other than showers on poolside which will be operational, but only for use prior to swimmers entering the water. All swimmers should use these showers before they get into the pool.

There are four changing rooms available with designated changing stations indicated by an X on the wall. Lockers will not be available. Staff at Bollington Leisure will advise swimmers on which changing area they should use.

We will ask swimmers to use the washrooms one at a time. If using the washrooms, please wash hands thoroughly and use hand-sanitiser where possible. Bollington Leisure will make hand sanitiser available on entry to the building, please use this when entering the building.

At the end of the session, swimmers will be sent back to the changing room in 'waves' and should try their hardest to maintain social distancing. Swimmers should towel off and put their clothes on over their kit and leave as quickly as possible. It will not be possible to shower after a session.

Macclesfield

Swimmer should arrive at the pool wearing their kit under suitable clothing, no more than 5 minutes before their session is due to start.

Swimmers will enter via the main entrance and proceed to the changing rooms via the door to the sauna area which will be propped open. The gate onto poolside will be closed until the start of the session. Whilst waiting for the gate to open, swimmers should remove their shoes and over-clothes and put them into their bags so that they are ready to swim.

Once the gate to poolside is opened, swimmers should head right onto poolside and put their bags against the wall by the beach area of the teaching pool. Then proceed around the teaching pool to the main pool where the coaches will sort you into your assigned lanes.

Once the session is complete, swimmers should go back to the bag area, collect your bag and go through the main shower area to the changing rooms. The main showers adjacent to the toilets will be in operation for swimmers to rinse off (no shampoo please) following training and prior to getting changed.

Once changed, swimmers should exit through the usual entrance to the changing rooms and then out toward the main entrance. No loitering in the corridors or changing rooms please. Parents, should also not wait in the corridors, but rather wait for your children outside the main entrance.

3. During Pool-time

The maximum number of swimmers permitted in Bollington Leisure is currently 20 swimmers per session (5 per lane). At Macclesfield this is 48 swimmers (6 per lane).

The coaches are carefully planning training sessions to minimise congestion in the pool and on poolside. For example, once a swimmer is allocated a lane group, they will remain in that group for each of their training sessions with Satellites. We ask that swimmers observe social distancing at all times and in the pool, the coaches will establish a one-way system with the swimmers, structuring the sessions to encourage social distancing. The coaches will inform swimmers of how they should enter/ leave the pool and lane protocol during the session. A Covid-19 Liaison volunteer will be present at all sessions to monitor social distancing and observe swimmers' behaviour.

Please ensure that swimmers bring their own equipment and labelled drinks bottles. Sharing of equipment will not be permitted and swimmers should avoid handing others' kit, taking their own kit home after every session to be cleaned.

Pool areas will be cleaned between sessions.

4. Spectators

Bollington Leisure have stated that viewing is possible for one adult per swimmer/ swimmers from the same household. The viewing areas will be marked out with appropriate spacing but, unfortunately, they cannot provide chairs. You are welcome to bring your own camping chair. If you are not viewing, please try to avoid coming into the Leisure Centre, preferably dropping your swimmer outside of the premises and allowing them to enter on their own. Although masks are not required on poolside, Bollington Leisure ask that you wear a mask if you are staying to spectate.

We are still waiting to hear from Everybody with respect to spectators at Macclesfield Leisure Centre. They expect to be able to make some provision, especially for the parents of our younger members but we do not know details yet.

There will be one Covid Liaison present at each swimming session who will monitor social distancing during the session. We may ask for some parent volunteers to take on this role. Please let us know if you are able to do this and, if so, which session you are available to cover.

Once we are able to perform a site visit at the new Kings School Pool, we will update the protocols with any site-specific adaptations for that venue.

Please be assured that the safety of everyone involved with Satellites is paramount and will be put first in all considerations. Please also be aware that these processes and this situation is new to all of us, and that circumstances and guidance could change. Please bear with us while we find our feet and work through the new processes to ensure that the swimmers are safe whilst returning to training.

If you have any questions, please let us know and we will get back to you.

Your sincerely



Sean Harmer, on behalf of
Satellites Swimming Club