



# HZJZ

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**Croatian Institute for Public Health**

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

These recommendations refer to the implementation of measures that are applied to swimming and bathing in the sea and inland surface waters during the COVID-19 epidemic in order to protect staff and visitors.

### **1. General recommendations**

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**Visible notifications and information for the guests.** Visible information on hygiene procedures and guidelines shall be placed at the entrance as well as in the area where the guests are staying and shall inform them on appropriate behaviour and protective measures that need to be followed or that are applicable in those areas. If appropriate infrastructure is available, occasional audio announcements can be made through a PA system to remind the guests that they should maintain physical distance and adhere to other general measures.

**Maximum number of people in spaces.** For the sea and freshwater swimming and bathing areas, the maximum number of people allowed to stay in the same area at the same time is determined according to the 15 people per 100 m<sup>2</sup> net surface area principle.

**Physical distancing** It is recommended that all guests and employees adhere to the rule on physical distancing of 1.5 m.

**General and hygiene measures** General measures on preventing the spread of COVID-19 are available at: <https://bit.ly/3cp9lvi>. Recommendations for adhering to all preventive measures refer to all surfaces of sea and freshwater swimming and bathing areas (water surface areas, beaches and areas with changing rooms, sanitary facilities).

### **2. Spatial and technical conditions for sea and freshwater swimming and bathing areas**

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**Hand sanitization.** It is necessary to place sanitizer dispensers at a reasonable distance and in a visible place (e.g. alcohol based sanitizer with an alcohol content of 70 % or higher or another agent with a declared virucidal effect according to manufacturer instructions and which is appropriate for skin application).

**Physical distancing.** The concessionaire shall separate the deckchairs so that physical distance is maintained (the concessionaire shall also designate a person tasked with monitoring the prescribed measures). They shall also disinfect the deckchairs several times a day, especially after a certain guest is no longer using one and before another guest uses it. If other seating areas are provided in the swimming and bathing areas, there also needs to be a 1.5 m distance between them.



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**Waste disposal.** It is recommended to place waste disposal containers with appropriate covers in all open spaces of the swimming and bathing areas.

**Swimming and bathing.** While bathing and swimming, a distance of 1.5 m shall be maintained.

**Requirements for sanitary facility maintenance.** It is necessary to increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting the sanitary facilities to every two hours (more often if necessary), as well as to increase the number of employees performing the daily cleaning in each sanitary facility. At the same time, the usage of sanitary facilities needs to be limited according to the size and prescribed sanitary requirements.

### **3. Areas for serving food and beverages and commercial content in the sea and freshwater bathing areas.**

**Catering facilities.** Instructions for the catering facilities are available on the web-page of the Croatian Institute for Public Health (*Hrvatski zavod za javno zdravstvo – HZJZ*): <https://bit.ly/3cmqCoK>

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**4. Regular monitoring of water areas used for recreation:** The monitoring is conducted by employees of the authorised Institute for Public Health, i.e. by the authorised laboratory according to the Plan and Programme of Monitoring Sea Beaches and Inland Swimming and Bathing Areas.

Laboratory employees conducting the sampling and analysis of the water shall adhere to the usual protective measure and security while conducting the sampling and analysis. They also follow the rules of professional conduct, general protective measures and the recommendations on maintaining physical distance and personal hygiene.