



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY MEDIA RELEASE

September 29, 2020  
For immediate release

## Indoor pools in Castlegar, Creston and Nelson to re-open October 13th Pre-registration required, no drop-ins allowed

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Community Services is working towards a return to aquatics, as indoor pools in Castlegar, Creston and Nelson are targeted to open Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Pools have been closed since March 16, 2020 due to COVID-19.

RDCK Community Services, under the guidance of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Interior Health, BC Recreations and Park Association (BCRPA) and Lifesaving Society, has been focused on collaborating with other municipal recreation services to safely reopen indoor pools across the RDCK. Once opened, users must use a pre-registered reservation process to book space in the community complex of choice. No drop-ins will be allowed. Detailed schedules are currently being finalized and will be promoted to communities in the coming weeks. Re-opening will occur in a series of stages and will be adapted as restrictions change within the province. Some amenities will remain closed upon the initial opening.

Staff are actively working on site-specific safety plans for each of the three indoor pool facilities in the RDCK. The safety plans will include, modifications on how patrons will enter and exit the facility, modified use of the pools including the flow of people within the pool areas, cleaning protocols, adapted schedules and more. Non-medical masks or face coverings are now required when entering and moving through all common areas of indoor recreation facilities, **except when exercising or performing physical activity**. Wearing a mask combined with other important preventative measures, such as frequent hand washing and physical distancing, will help prevent the spread of COVID-19. At this time, change rooms will not be available. Users are expected to arrive in their swimming attire and will be provided with a spot to store their shoes, coats and outerwear.

Once the safety plans are finalized, these will assist user organizations in planning their use of the pool. All organizations renting pool space will need to provide the RDCK with a COVID-19 safety plan. A virtual meeting was held with pool user groups to review re-opening plans and new facility requirements.

“The RDCK aquatic centre work group is working hard towards re-opening pools October 13<sup>th</sup>,” said Marty Benson of Nelson and District Recreation Complex and Chair of the RDCK Aquatic re-opening work group. “The re-opening of pools has many layers to work through to ensure a safe return for our staff and our patrons. Safety is our first priority.”

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services adds: “Safety measures such as physical distancing of two metres between participants and keeping total number of users under 50 people continue to impact our recreation and parks operations. The RDCK and all our recreation partners will abide by all Provincial Health Orders and recommendations to keep our community safe.”

The RDCK appreciates the patience of all our users as we implement a new reimagined service with COVID-19 policies and procedures in place. Recreation and park services continue to be reviewed regularly as new information and protocols become available. For the most up to date information on the RDCK pool openings, please go to [www.rdck.ca/recreation](http://www.rdck.ca/recreation).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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