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## SGE Update for COVID-19 – April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*The team at StarGuard ELITE continues to closely follow the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak and its potential impact to our clients and the aquatic industry. Safety is at the core of everything we do at SGE, and the safety & well being of our clients is a top priority. Should you have any concerns that we can assist with, please reach out to your Client Partner or contact us at [info@starguardelite.com](mailto:info@starguardelite.com).*

StarGuard ELITE's company mission is to provide aquatic safety solutions that are objective driven, client focused, and innovative. In an ever changing operational landscape, SGE continues to develop solutions to adapt training methods and operational best practices to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Additionally, SGE strives to provide our clients with key information needed to make informed decisions about their facility's operations and training.

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## Message from SGE President

Dear Clients,

I know these are difficult times for many, and the social distancing guidelines have had a major impact on all of us. The effects of the current restrictions have been devastating for our clients who operate year-round or open by April. The impact has also been extremely difficult for seasonal clients who are typically entering peak season right now for hiring, training, preseason sales, event planning, and more.

We know the aquatics industry is resilient and will adapt, however the way we have all traditionally conducted training & operations will have to change in the immediate future, and possibly for the years to come. I remain optimistic that these difficult days will create new opportunities for training methods, operational best practices, and further incorporating technology to adapt how we all conduct business. I have challenged our entire team to have SGE continue to be the thought leaders for bringing innovation and evolution to the way the aquatics industry trains & prepares our operational teams.

In the past few weeks, virtual training courses have quickly progressed from something to consider to essentially becoming a must for many clients. Therefore, we have further expanded on our previous updates and are now sharing a new format: **StarGuard Blended-Learning with Virtual Training**. More information about this can be found on the SGE Lifeguard Portal. We have also recently added an online self-study for our proprietary and industry-leading **ELITE Dispatch™** training, as well as many other updates to resources available to SGE clients.

Finally, we continue working closely with our Medical Directors as the pandemic develops. The recommendation from our Medical Directors remains that ALL in-person training should be suspended until further notice. Eliminating any potential contact points is the best way to stop the spread of the virus. The Medical Directors feel confident that an early May return to in-person training is possible however this continues to develop. We will of course continue to monitor and provide updates as they are available.

We look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve you and thank you for being a valued client.

Sincerely,

Wess Long  
President  
StarGuard ELITE

## Updated SGE Medical Director Q&A from April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*Dr. Justin Sempsrott is a board-certified Emergency Physician with sub-specialty training in pre-hospital and disaster medicine.*

Dr. Sempsrott has provided the following updated statement, as well as answers to client and staff questions. Statement regarding COVID-19:

“In my previous statement on March 23, my recommendation was complete shutdown and no in-person trainings through end of April. This recommendation has not changed and no position has been determined beyond April 30<sup>th</sup> at this time. Today’s message is one of hope but also of cautious optimism. We are seeing flattening of the curve across the nation, but that does not necessarily mean fewer total cases (the next week could see a lot of new cases), but rather a stretching out over time so as not to overwhelm the healthcare system.”

### **Q&A from April 6, 2020:**

*Q: What are the effects of pool chlorination on COVID-19?*

No changes are needed from current water quality practices. WHO guidelines say 0.5 ppm chlorination is sufficient to kill the virus within 30 minutes. Most facilities operate with a range of 1 to 5 ppm with a proper pH so the virus is killed even faster. No additional shock or treatment is needed.

*Q: From your perspective, when will it be safe for staff and patrons to return to pools?*

Mid-May is looking reasonable for LIMITED staff numbers to return to work – but there will be a lot of regional variations in this estimated timeline based on an area’s population density and the virus spread.

This is a timeline for return of LIMITED staff numbers, not opening to public. This will also be dependent upon if an area has reached its peak and also if there is a sound health infrastructure in said region.

*Q: Will additional PPE will be required?*

This is still being discussed by ILCOR and AHA presently, and the safety of rescuers is a top priority for SGE. ILCOR had posted new draft guidelines for comment and the final day for public comments was 4/5. The draft is now closed so new guidelines can be expected in next two weeks (by 4/20).

*Q: Will there be changes to CPR guidelines?*

Most likely yes, specifically as relates to airborne pathogens versus bloodborne pathogens. But we cannot speculate too much at this point as to what those changes will be.

*Q: Will there be maximum enrollment numbers for trainings?*

In May, yes. This will likely be based on number of participants per gathering limits recommended by health departments. As such, “staggering” may become warranted – with small numbers of staff allowed in each training session initially. Increases will be slowly phased in.

*Q: What is the incubation period between exposure and symptoms?*

Average time is five days, during which time a person is infectious. An individual can continue to spread the live virus for about a week after symptoms begin.

*Q: Will social distance mandates affect operations?*

Yes, we expect a phased increase in staff toward mid-May but opening to public is still separate and yet to be determined.

*Q: What about lifeguard's wearing facemasks while on duty?*

The new normal will likely involve proof of immunity and/or vaccination per individual. A vaccine is at least a year away from being available. If required, the type of mask (simple, surgical, N95) will be determined by OSHA and potentially CPR guidelines as they pertain to the performance of routine duties and/or CPR.

*Q: Are BVMs in limited supply?*

Not at this time.

*Q: Will out of water breath protocols change?*

This will be addressed at a later date, especially as N95s are not practical for all responding staff to have access to.

*Q: Will guest numbers likely be limited when openings are allowed?*

Yes, it is likely that only phased increases in gathering numbers will be permitted initially, and that, since compliance will always remain an issue, further isolated outbreaks can thus be expected.

*Q: Will extreme sanitation measures be required?*

For next several years, that will likely be the case, until immunization is across the board. We can expect updated standards from OSHA and other agencies about sanitation measures.

*Q: What will return-to-work guidelines look like for the aquatics industry?*

Antibody testing (for COVID-19) will likely be required at some point, although it generally takes several weeks for positive testing to occur and there is only approximately 80% accuracy on such testing currently. Testing will improve and this will likely become part of guidelines once it is widely available.

*Q: Does COVID-19 in sand, at beaches?*

UV light does kill the virus, and although there are no studies yet, beaches are not considered to be of concern in countries where there is adequate sewage treatment (in developed areas such as the U.S.).

*Q: What is your estimate on limits in May?*

Likely non-public staff will be limited to TEN people initially, with phased increases thereafter.

*Q: Can one get COVID-19 more than once?*

It is believed that the answer is no, and that there are two strains of the virus presently, and also that there is cross-immunity for the two strains. It is not mutating rapidly, fortunately.

*Q: What about limitations surrounding facial hair for rescuers/lifeguards?*

Shaving of facial hair will likely be recommended for face masks with tighter seals such as the N95 to fit properly.

*Q: Will temperature taking be required by lifeguards?*

Not likely.

*Q: Are OTC medications indicated for reducing fever from COVID-19?*

Fevers are primarily treated just to make patients feel better and/or to promote hydration if an issue. Otherwise, not crucial to treat fevers. Tylenol/acetaminophen recommended in these cases.

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-safety-and-availability/fda-advises-patients-use-non-steroidal-anti-inflammatory-drugs-nsaids-covid-19>

*Q: What about false negatives in testing?*

This typically occurs when individuals are not swabbed properly (not deep enough and/or not in both nostrils).

*Q: What are the odds of pools opening in most major cities by June?*

It is difficult to make any predictions at this point. The odds are not great, unfortunately. Better odds are for smaller regions in areas which are not as densely populated but it's really tough to offer any odds for anywhere until a future date.

*Q: What about swim lessons?*

When gatherings of 10 or less are allowed once again, swim lessons should be one of the first activities to resume.

*Q: What about currently scheduled lifeguard classes?*

We will have to maintain a wait-and-see stance for the in-person training at this time and refer to local restrictions for the facility.

## CDC, WHO, OSHA, and Aquatics Industry Updates

The recommendations of the SGE and Starfish Aquatics Institute Medical Directors for handling COVID-19 are consistent with the recommendations provided by the Centers for Disease Control, World Health Organization, and American Heart Association. We strongly recommend you adhere to the guidelines below and that of your local health authorities to help minimize potential risks.

### Basic Protective Measures

World Health Organization (WHO) Recommendations:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

United States Department of Labor – Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA):

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

### Water Quality

Per the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>

Per the WHO:

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/water-sanitation-hygiene-and-waste-management-for-covid-19>

### COVID-19 Informational & Inservice Course

Our partners at Starfish Aquatics Institute developed an outstanding online learning course in coordination with the SGE/SAI Medical Directors specific to the COVID-19. [Click here to access the course.](#)

### Additional Aquatics Industry Updates

International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA):

<https://www.iaapa.org/iaapa-member-resources-coronavirus>

World Waterpark Association (WWA):

[https://www.waterparks.org/web/Tagged\\_Content/Hot\\_Topics/Coronavirus.aspx](https://www.waterparks.org/web/Tagged_Content/Hot_Topics/Coronavirus.aspx)