



420 S Orange Ave Suite 270
Orlando, FL 32801

(573) 207-5087
info@starguardelite.com

SGE Weekly Update for COVID-19 – May 19th, 2020

The team at StarGuard ELITE has been an industry leader for following the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic and its impact to our clients and the aquatics community. 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.

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 has developed a variety of solutions, resources, and adaptations to training methods and operational best practices with the goal of minimizing 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 all,

Once again, I hope this message finds you in good health, safe, and eager to tackle the days ahead. For those clients and facilities that are pushing forward with summer operations, SGE is here as your aquatic safety partner to provide support as needed. For ones who are unable to resume operations to this point or have made the decision to not operate in 2020, we are here to help navigate these days with you for whatever is needed.

Since the release of the first version of **SGE's COVID-19 Information, Considerations, & Best Practices** on April 27th we have continued to provide revisions as further guidance has been released. This includes a key update on May 11th after the CDC released their aquatic operational guidance. If you have not yet seen these, please login to the Lifeguard Portal and download the latest version. A revision history has been added to track the updates made.

SGE also continues to produce additional resources to assist our clients. This week, for example, we will publish a new COVID-19 General Orientation course in our Online Learning module that is specific to personnel working in aquatic environments. This course is intended to better prepare staff and reduce some of the in-person training burden that will be needed for client facilities to open once they are able to.

Over the past few weeks many other organizations and governing bodies have released guidance specific to aquatic operations. The great news is the guidance has largely been very consistent between everyone. The guidance has also been very consistent with what we have expected and been preparing our clients for. I know for a fact that the SGE family has been better informed than anyone else, and we take great pride in knowing that. With the relative plateau in information updates and guidance changes, SGE will no longer provide weekly updates and instead will release updates on an as needed basis. This will also be the case for our weekly Medical Director and Client Partner meetings, however some may continue on a regional basis.

Finally, we are extremely excited to announce that the StarGuard Lifeguard Program is the first ever [certification](#) for a lifeguard training program from The Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code ([CMAHC](#)). This achievement is reflective of the tremendous program and resources that SGE has to offer. [Click here](#) to learn more about this certification.

SGE remains committed to be the aquatic safety industry leader throughout this pandemic. We are excited to continue serving our client family and the aquatics community at large. Please reach out for any service or support we may be able to assist with as we collectively work together to make aquatic facilities safer and stronger than ever before.

Sincerely,

Wess Long
President
StarGuard ELITE

Lifeguard Training and Instructor Course Resources

Assisting with Lifeguard Training Courses

As many clients prepare to open, we realize that a large number may not have the instructor resources available to conduct trainings. SGE is here to help! SGE has a team of regional and national instructors that are ready and willing to assist for both current and future clients. Fees are very competitive and can include certification costs.

Instructor Development Courses

For facilities requiring Lifeguard Instructor certification or extension, SGE has procedures in place requiring less in-person training time through online and virtual training options. SGE is now scheduling in-person IDC courses on a per client basis in accordance with the regional guidelines.

If we can be of assistance for either, please contact us at info@starguardelite.com.

SGE Publicly Available Recorded Meetings & Presentations

SGE MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT UPDATE – From April 30th

Dr. Justin Sempsrott, SGE's Medical Director, and Wess Long provided an online presentation on April 30th via Facebook Live. This video discusses the importance of mitigation measures, including masks, sanitation, training procedures, and more.

[YouTube Video](#) (Also available on [SGE's Facebook page](#))

[PowerPoint Presentation with Dr. Sempsrott's introductory statement](#)

SGE UPDATE for CDC Guidelines, Swim Lessons, and More – May 11th, 2020

Dr. Justin Sempsrott, Jill White, Wess Long, and Joel Riker hosted another online presentation on May 11th that was also via Facebook Live. This presentation discussed the CDC updates, more Medical Director updates, swim lessons, training, and other operational best practices.

[YouTube Video](#) (Also available on [SGE's Facebook page](#))

[PowerPoint Presentation Download](#)

COVID-19 Client Resources

SGE library of resources for our clients continues to expand in the Document Repository on the Lifeguard Portal. If you have not seen them yet, be sure to check them out. These resources include the following:

- ***SGE COVID-19 Information, Considerations, and Best Practices v2.1***
 - This document serves as the foundation for all of the SGE guidance for reopening aquatic facilities in the COVID-19 era.
- ***SGE COVID-19 Non-Aquatics Information v1.0***
 - This document is an additional resource to assist clients with information, considerations, and recommendations for the non-aquatic areas that a facility may operate. It is intended to be a supplement to the release addressing all aquatic areas.
- ***SGE Post COVID-19 Operational Reopening Checklist v1.0***
 - This checklist is intended to assist client facilities with preparations for re-opening their training and operations in the COVID-19 era.
- ***SGE COVID-19 - Letter for Patrons and Candidates***
 - This letter is intended as a resource for SGE Training Centers to provide to help explain the efforts underway by each facility to provide a safe environment for training and operations.
- **Online Training Courses Available** (via Lifeguard Portal unless linked below)
 - StarGuard Lifeguard
 - StarGuard Lifeguard Instructor
 - ELITE Dispatch
 - COVID-19 Aquatics Staff Orientation
 - [Starfish Swimming Lessons Information](#)
 - [SAI's COVID-19 What You Need to Know](#)
- **Virtual Training Blocks Plans**
 - StarGuard Lifeguard
 - StarGuard Lifeguard Instructor

Aquatic Industry Resources Available

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/parks-rec/aquatic-venues.html>

International Association of Amusement Parks & Attractions (IAAPA)

https://www.iaapa.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/IAAPA_COVID-19_ReopeningGuidance_rev1_final.pdf

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

World Waterpark Association (WWA)

https://www.waterparks.org/web/Tagged_Content/Hot_Topics/Coronavirus.aspx

Association of Aquatic Professionals (AOAP)

<https://aquaticpros.org/covid-19-resources/>

USA Swimming

<https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/coronavirus>

Pool & Hot Tub Alliance

<http://www.phtacoronaupdate.com>