

# City of Mount Vernon

40 Public Square, Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Phone: 740-393-9520 Fax: 740-397-6595

E-mail: [safety@mountvernonohio.org](mailto:safety@mountvernonohio.org)



## City of Mount Vernon Proposed COVID-19 Plan for Hiawatha Water Park

The City of Mount Vernon intends to open the Hiawatha Water Park in late May, 2021. In addition to adhering to normal Public Health and industry guidelines around concession operation, water treatment, and safety this plan will outline COVID-19 precautions for the 2021 pool season.

### Occupancy

The combined surface area of the water in the water park is 15,278 square feet. Allocating 36 square feet per occupant would provide every occupant in the water 6 feet of distance from any other occupant. Therefore, the City will set the occupancy for people in the water at  $(15,278 / 36)$  425 people.

The City estimates that between 25-30% of water park visitors are parents or other adults who spend most of their time on land, or limit their pool time to adult swim periods. Therefore, the City estimates that the water park can support an additional 100 guests while maintaining necessary social distancing and other precautions. The land area outside of the pool (50,000 square feet) is more than sufficient to accommodate these additional 100 guests as well as the 425 guests that could be in or out of the pool at any given time.

Therefore, the City intends to set water park occupancy at **525 persons** for the 2021 pool season.

Water park staff will open both an entrance and dedicated exit to the water park. Water park personnel will staff both the entrance and the exit to maintain an accurate count of visitors at all times of day.

Water park management will establish the best process to maintain the 525 maximum occupancy during busy times. This will likely involve admitting the first 425 visitors, regardless of whether they are season pass holders or cash customers, and reserving some occupancy for season pass holders who may arrive throughout the day. This plan for admittance will evolve throughout the summer based on the pool staff's experience.

### Signage and Social Distancing

Signage will be installed throughout the park at entrances, along the fences and in other high traffic areas reminding guests to maintain six feet of distance from other guests. Stickers/decals will be installed six feet apart at the entrance area, concession stand, and water slides to illustrate to guests waiting in those areas where to stand to maintain proper distance.

Proper hand washing signage will be installed inside restrooms.

All lifeguards and other staff will be trained to monitor the park for proper social distancing and will direct guests and/or their families when they need to relocate to ensure guidelines are followed.

Per the Ohio Department of Health guidance, no more than 6 people (household members preferred) may be seated together in a group. Pool staff will enforce these group limits along with ensuring the proper distancing between groups is maintained.

### Disinfection and Staffing

At any given time there are 13-15 lifeguards, 3 maintenance workers and 2 management staff at the water park, in addition to cashiers and concession workers, which will allow for adherence to both disinfection procedures and monitoring for proper social distancing. While the following breakdown of responsibilities is the norm, staff members will work together throughout the season to ensure compliance. The following roles are established for each classification:

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- Lifeguards – monitor for social distancing guidelines throughout the park when it does not interfere with their lifeguarding responsibilities
- Maintenance Workers – Ensure restrooms and other high touch areas are disinfected every 2 hours.
- Cashiers/Concession workers – ensure concession and entry/exit areas are disinfected regularly. Stock hand sanitizer in their locations. Ensure occupancy limit is maintained.
- Management Staff – Generally oversee COVID-19 compliance and fill in for monitoring, occupancy or cleaning as necessary.

For the 2021 season the City intends to remove most, if not all, furniture from the water park to reduce the potential for disease transmission. Park guests will be informed that they are responsible to bring their own seating for their visit. The City may retain a small number of picnic tables for guests to use when eating. These tables will be restricted to active eating only and will be disinfected regularly by concession or maintenance staff.

## **Concessions and Flow**

Some changes to normal concession procedure will be implemented for the 2021 season. First, the concession stand will operate two lines where customers will both order and receive their food. In prior seasons customers would order then move to a separate window to receive their food. It is the City's belief that by operating 2 full service windows we can queue customers in a more organized, and socially distanced, fashion and ensure each customer limits their exposure to only one part of the concession area.

Concession workers will be required to wear masks for the entirety of their shift, will wipe down their areas between customers and will limit condiments to individual packets or condiments added to food by concession workers during the food prep process (i.e. cheese for nachos). Workers will ensure that hand sanitizer is stocked at the concession stands at all times.

Other water park staff who come in close contact with guests (i.e. staff at entrance and exits, maintenance workers) will be required to wear masks throughout their shift. Lifeguards, in general, will be exempt from wearing a mask while on duty (outdoors) and when social distancing can be maintained.

As a general rule, if staff is outdoors and is able to maintain 6 feet of social distance a mask will not be required. When inside water park facilities (i.e. restrooms, locker rooms, offices) masks should be worn unless someone is working in an office alone.

## **Marketing**

Beginning immediately and during both the pool season and during pre-season communications guests will be informed about the following changes and COVID-19 precautions.

- The City will have a full pool season from May 29, 2021 – August 18, 2021.
- The summer program is cancelled for 2021 due to complexities and increased staffing necessary for operating a day camp.
- Occupancy throughout the 2021 season will be limited to 525 guests. This will be on a first come, first served basis with priority given to season pass holders.
- There will be no chairs or other seating in the water park for the 2021 season. Guests are permitted to bring their own seating.
- All park guests will be expected to take COVID-19 precautions which include limiting contact to your family/party, maintain 6 foot distance from other guests/parties, and regular handwashing.
- Guests visit the pool at their own risk. The City will do everything in its power to ensure a clean safe environment, but residents at high risk or who are concerned about COVID-19 transmission should consider other recreational activities this summer.