

Avenel Swim Team
2021 Season: Frequently Asked Questions
April 28, 2021

Please note that the information provided is based on the current plan and latest conditions regarding COVID-19. The plan is subject to change depending on evolving jurisdictional requirements, restrictions, and guidance as well as pool rules as established by the Avenel Community Association.

Question: Will the Avenel swim team operate in 2021?

Answer: Yes, the Avenel swim team (for swimmers age 5 to 18 as of 6/3/21) plans to have practices and meets during summer 2021 pending Montgomery County's Letter of Approval and there is sufficient community interest to field and operate a team. Swimmers must be able to swim one length of the pool unassisted.

Question: Will Avenel offer a Pre-Team program in 2021?

Answer: Unfortunately, due to safety considerations, we are unable to have a Pre-Team program for younger children in 2021, but we plan to resume it next year.

Question: How will swim meets and social events differ during the summer 2021 season as compared to previous seasons?

Answer: Due to COVID restrictions, we will not have home swim meets or as many social events this summer as usual. However, we plan to have "away" swim meets, potential "virtual" meets and two team social events (get-togethers). We are in the process of determining what approach will be needed to hold social events safely. Please note that the Avenel swim team participates in the Country Club Swim and Dive Association (CCSDA). CCSDA is applying to Montgomery County for a waiver to permit meets to be held. Swimmers and volunteers must adhere to County requirements at swim meets.

Question: When will swim practices begin and what days/times will they be held?

Answer: Due, in part, to limitations on the number of residents allowed to be at the pool at once, we have had to move swim practices to different times than in past years. Swim practices begin on Tuesday, June 1. From June 1 through 16, practices will be held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7-8:30 am, and Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 pm. From June 17 through July 23, practices will be held Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 to 9:45 am, and Mondays and Wednesdays from 7-8 pm. Particularly for morning practices, we will assess the volume of attendance and may modify the practice schedule as needed.

Question: Will practices be divided by age group?

Answer: We anticipate that there will be a 10 and Under group and an 11 and Over group. We will provide more specific detail about exact days and times of

practice for each group as we review the volume of swimmers who register for the Avenel swim team.

Question: What COVID safety precautions and protocols will be used at swim practice?

Answer: These protocols are extensive and include: (1) No more than 6 swimmers per lane (with swimmers assigned to specific lanes and deck spots in a consistent fashion that is recorded at each practice to enable contact tracing); (2) Swimmers must be 6 feet apart in the pool and on deck; (3) Masks must be worn in the facility and on deck by all in the facility, and by the swimmer until he/she enters the pool; (4) Drop-off is recommended, however, no more than one adult chaperone is permitted during practice in the facility per family (and such chaperone must stay in the swimmer's designated spot on deck); (5) During practice times, the facility will be used only by the swim team (general members will not be in the pool); (6) There will be no shared equipment during practice; (7) Athletes must arrive and depart in their swimsuits; (8) Locker rooms will not be used during practice, however rest rooms are available for use in emergency situations

Question: What happens if a member of the swim team community tests positive for COVID-19?

Answer: If an athlete, coach, volunteer, or adult chaperone tests positive for COVID-19, they must notify the Head Coach or Designated Team representative immediately. The swim team will suspend practices for at least 24 hours and will notify the swim team community immediately via e-mail, although the name of the individual will be withheld for privacy purposes. The swim team will comply with state and county contact tracing protocols and will use government or public health guidelines (and exercise independent judgment) to assess how and when to re-open.

Question: Will swim team registration fees increase in 2021?

Answer: We are holding swim team registration fees constant at \$295 per swimmer. If a family has three or more swimmers, the fees are \$260 per swimmer.

Question: As the pandemic evolves in our community and state and county regulations and guidance change, can I expect changes in the way practices and meets are run over the course of the summer?

Answer: Jurisdictional requirements and guidance will be monitored, and practices and schedules may be modified accordingly.