(DATE)

(NAME)

Director of (NAME of COUNTY) Health Services

(ADDRESS)

(CITY), (STATE) (ZIP)

Dear Director (NAME),

I am writing on behalf of the (NAME of YOUR PROGRAM) and the (NUMBER) year-round swimmers who reside in (COUNTY NAME) County. The (NAME of YOUR PROGRAM), based in (NAME of CITY), has had a (NUMBER of YEARS)-year history of providing an aquatic fitness program for adults who choose to swim for health, fitness, or competition. On behalf of all the swim teams and their members in (COUNTY NAME) County, we ask that you please consider reopening our public pools for swim team exercise use.

Our use of public swimming pools occurs outside of the general public use, and we are confident we can meet all safety requirements related to social distancing during our limited swim team use. Our high standard of safety includes not sharing equipment or passing equipment from person to person, we always maintain a minimum 6-foot distance unlike unsupervised recreational activities, and we are submersed in COVID-19 virus-killing chlorinated water for the duration of our workout.

We believe swimming, like walking, hiking, running, and cycling, is a healthy activity that is critical within our community. Swimming does not require direct contact between teammates or coaches, and social distancing can be naturally maintained throughout practice and in entry and exit protocols by the pre-existing lane lines. As with all exercise and activity at this time, swimming must comply with standards for social distancing and safety within aquatic facilities. We know, with collaboration between U.S. Masters Swimming coaches, public health officials, and facility operators, we can create safe plans for using aquatic facilities to promote physical and mental health opportunities compliant with public health directives. The [CDC has indicated](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html) that there is no evidence the disease spreads through treated water. Proper operation and maintenance (including disinfection with chlorine and bromine) of these facilities will allow for safe use and elimination of the COVID-19 virus in the water and on the adjacent pool deck, which is typically soaked with chlorinated water.

Please consider the opening of our public pools for swim team use under the following parameters:

* Initial Swim practice is limited to two swimmers per lane starting at opposite ends of a 25-yard pool or four swimmers per lane when using a 50-meter pool. With these distances between swimmers, the social distancing requirements can easily be maintained. Athletes must maintain a minimum 6-foot distance when entering and exiting the facility. There will be clear markings at the entrance 6 feet apart if any short line develops. We do not anticipate any lines with only a few athletes at the facility at any given time.
* We will require hand sanitizing before entry into the facility and upon exiting the facility.
* Athletes will not be allowed to use the changing room or changing room showers and will arrive and leave with their swimsuits on.
* Only one swimmer at a time will be allowed to use the toilet and will clean the area after use with provided disinfectant.
* Drinking fountains and other public areas will be off limits to our athletes, thereby dramatically minimizing any level of “high touch” surfaces. The minimal surfaces that are touched will be disinfected after each use.
* Athletes will have to bring their own water bottles and training equipment and will not be allowed to share either with their fellow swimmers.
* No food will be allowed in the facility.
* Athletes will disinfect their training bags and equipment prior to entering the pool area.
* Each athlete will have their own clothing storage area, which will be at least 6 feet apart and disinfected after each use.
* Swimmers or coaches exhibiting coughing or sneezing will not be allowed to enter the facility.
* No spectators will be allowed into the facility.
* Staff will always be wearing face coverings during practices and maintain required social distancing from athletes and other staff.
* We have contactless payment procedures and all fee collections will be done online.

The safety precautions outlined above make swim team use safer than many of our adults’ routine daily activities and safer than many of the currently approved activities referenced in the (NAME of COUNTY) health order.

Please consider perhaps the strongest facts supporting a reopening of public pools for swim team lap use and these include:

1. (*For outdoor pools*) We are exercising outdoors under high UV and heat conditions
2. We are submersed in “disinfectant” (chlorine) for the duration of our activity
3. Our athletes are HIGHLY dedicated and determined and will follow all rules and procedures set out for them under a ZERO tolerance policy set forth by the staff.

I have attached the U.S. Masters Swimming restart guide and USA Swimming’s protocols for restarting swim practices, which includes some excellent graphic examples of how social distancing looks within a swim practice setting in a pool. I look forward to seeing our local swimmers back into their training pools very quickly and with your support and help, we can make this happen in a safe and responsible manner.

Respectfully submitted and best regards,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Swim Team