



Scottish
Swimming

People Development

Back to the Water

COVID-19 Guidance

For Aquatic Educators

Phase 3

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1.0 Introduction

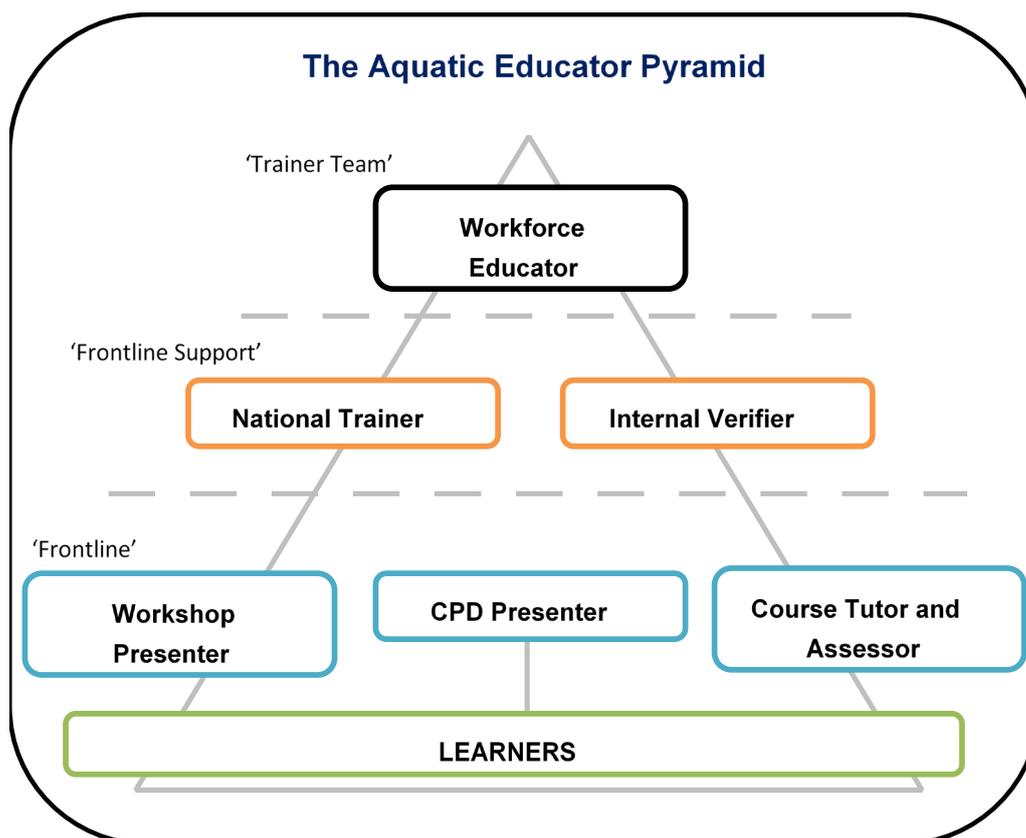
This document aims to support Aquatic Educators in returning to facilities for purposes of education and training, following the period of closure due to COVID-19 and provides guidance on reducing the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the aquatics environment.

This guidance highlights the continued requirements for safe physical distancing and enhanced hygiene in line with Scottish Government requirements.

As with all environments, there is still a level of risk of COVID-19 transmission that requires the continued implementation of control measures in aquatic settings. Aquatic providers/course organisers must create their own risk assessments, for support please refer to 7.0 in [Scottish Swimming Club Management Back to the Water Guidance](#) before implementing any activities identified below.

2.0 Aquatic Educator Roles

The Aquatic Educator Pyramid illustrates the key roles of the Aquatic Educator workforce. 'Frontline' Aquatic Educators work directly with learners in the industry and therefore, at present, the following guidance is especially pertinent to this group. A step further away from the frontline is the 'Frontline Support' roles consisting of National Trainers and Internal Verifiers. A further step away is the Workforce Educator team who deliver initial tutor training.



3.0 Guiding Principles for Aquatic Educators and Providers

Provided within this section is further detail on how to implement the guiding principles for the delivery of education programmes. This includes practical ideas and additional considerations for the implementation of the guidance, along with links to supporting resources. Please note, Scottish Swimming's current default position on aquatic education is that face-to-face delivery should remain suspended unless absolutely necessary. If a crucial need for face-to-face delivery is identified, Scottish Swimming should be notified for approval in the first instance. Any approved face-to-face delivery must also be agreed to by the venue and must be run in accordance with the venue's specific safety protocols.

Guidance	Considerations
<p>Aquatic Providers/course organisers should consider splitting groups/reducing candidate numbers for poolside practical teaching sessions based on each poolside's capacity</p>	<p>Training providers will need to consider how many candidates can be on site or in the education programme at any one time.</p> <p>Examples could include, splitting candidate groups into two groups of six candidates</p> <p>Consider how many would be teaching/coaching and how many would be observing (including safe and suitable areas for this to occur).</p>
Guidance	Considerations
<p>Consider alternative methods of delivery for dry side content.</p>	<p>If a session does not strictly require face-to-face delivery, consider timetabling virtual content-delivery sessions to reduce face-to-face delivery in group settings i.e. deliver specific 'theory' sessions as a webinar.</p> <p>Consider running pre-practical briefing and debrief in larger spaces e.g. sports hall, other suitable open space or outside areas.</p>

	<p>Consider providing one to one feedback following the practical teaching sessions away from the aquatic education setting.</p> <p>For any tutor led/peer led practical sessions, consider other methods of delivery to ensure physical distancing i.e. use of video content, role play and/or virtual peer activities.</p> <p>Consider the use of technology or video to reduce the time needed for practical sessions e.g. online stroke analysis</p>
Guidance	Considerations
<p>Consider access, movement and spacing within the designated learning space following physical distancing guidance</p>	<p>Consider entries and exits and one-way movement within classroom spaces</p> <p>Seating spaced far enough apart to adhere to physical distancing guidance</p> <p>Consider use of PPE for Aquatic Educators and candidates when in physical learning environment</p> <p>Consider use of other areas within the facility for example sports hall, other suitable open spaces or outside areas.</p>
Guidance	Considerations
<p>Learners should use their own notebooks, pens and any other resources and these are not to be shared</p>	<p>Use electronic assessment materials wherever possible to reduce the need for paper based learner assessment evidence</p> <p>Game cards – show them, do not share them around and consider e-version.</p>

	<p>Learners to use their own pens and other stationary throughout</p> <p>Consider use of individual mini whiteboard, pen and eraser</p> <p>Use technology for delivery where possible to reduce contact time.</p> <p>Aquatic Educators to consider the suitability and safe use of teaching and learning resources such as pens and flip chart</p> <p>Where possible use electronic supportive resources.</p> <p>Try to use your own projector where possible, if using facility's equipment minimise movement of this.</p> <p>Laminate any table handouts and then sanitise after use.</p>
<p>Guidance</p>	<p>Considerations</p>
<p>Aquatic Educators should ensure that they are still following Scottish Swimming guidelines on assessment requirements</p>	<p>SQA have released a statement that endorses candidates sitting exam papers virtually – refer to Scottish Swimming Remote Online Assessment Guidance in the Education Policies and Operations Manual.</p>

4.0 Aquatic Education Guiding Principles Summary

- Providers should have a dedicated officer(s) responsible for COVID-19 considerations, making sure that they are up to date with Scottish Government recommendations
- Aquatic Educators should be provided with the facility's updated PSOP which should include Risk Assessment, NOP and EAP prior to the course/workshop
- Lifesaving provision will be provided by the facility as per current education programme. Follow [RLSS](#) (or your provider) UK guidance regarding any Aquatic Educator intervention/emergency support that is required (on grounds of safety)
- Aquatic Educators should consider how candidates operate on poolside following the [Scottish Swimming Aquatic Participation Swimming Lessons Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#) and [Scottish Swimming Club Training Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#).
- Physical distancing guidance to be followed for any Aquatic Educator-led/peer-led practical sessions
- Consider access, movement and spacing within the designated learning space following physical distancing guidance
- To reduce group contact, consider the use of technology for virtual content-delivery sessions
- Follow [Scottish Swimming Aquatic Participation Swimming Lessons Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#) and [Scottish Swimming Club Training Back to the Water COVID-19 Guidance](#) on the use and cleaning of equipment. Aquatic Providers to ensure sufficient access to wash station for all designated learning spaces
- Learners should use their own notebooks, pens and any other resources and these are not to be shared
- Aquatic Educators to consider the suitability of teaching and learning resources in relation to COVID-19 and safe working practices
- Use electronic assessment materials to reduce the need for physical learner assessment evidence
- Ensure all candidates follow health guidelines for isolation should they become unwell, pre or during the education programme. Should any candidate become unwell, Aquatic Educators and course organisers should consider suspending further face-to-face sessions.
- Aquatic Educators should also ensure they can access registers and contact details of swimmers in lessons/sessions for Test & Protect protocol

5.0 Disclaimer

When referring to any documents and associated attachments in this guidance, please note the following:

1. Reliance upon the guidance or use of the content of this website will constitute your acceptance of this disclaimer.
2. The term guidance should be taken to imply the standards and best practice solutions that are acceptable to Scottish Swimming.
3. The documents and any associated drawing material are intended for information only.
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10. Aquatic educators should continue to check information published by the Scottish Government and sportscotland after reading this guidance.

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