

# All set to dive into action

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Hotel staff cleaning up the swimming pool at the E&O Hotel to prepare for the reopening.

IT'S chlorine in and dirt out as swimming pools prepare to reopen in Penang today.

Ocean View Residences condominium manager Tony Lim said maintenance workers had given tiles in the swimming pool a thorough scrub, while contractors had been called in to replenish its chlorine level.

"After being closed for three months, the pool required major cleaning as children and families of 390 units here might resume using it regularly.

"The security guard will monitor the crowd while on patrol and through the CCTV cameras around the pool.

"We have decided to limit a maximum of 20 users in the pool at one time and all residents have been informed," he said.

Lim, however, said if the government set stricter standard operating procedures (SOPs), the management would adhere to them.

He said equipment in the gym had been rearranged to enable the practice of social distancing after it was allowed to operate.

"But the basketball court will remain closed until further notice."

The Penang government has outlined several SOPs for all swimming pools.

State youth and sports committee chairman Soon Lip Chee said all swimming pools would be allowed to operate only until 9pm.



Safety inspection: Lifeguard Rafiudin Ramli, 25, showing the water quality test kit to his manager Jackson Wang at the Setia SPICE Aquatic Centre in Bayan Lepas, Penang.

“Operators must display the QR code of either the PGCare or MySejahtera app for users to scan upon entering.

“Social distancing of between one and three metres for static activities, and between three and five metres for dynamic activities must be adhered to at all times.

“Other facilities such as sauna and Jacuzzi are prohibited, and chlorine tests on the water in pools must be done every two hours,” he said.

Eastern & Oriental Hotel general manager Alison Fraser said the hotel was excited to reopen its pool by the sea to guests.

“Despite it being closed throughout the movement control order (MCO) period, we conducted regular daily maintenance and kept the filtration and recirculation systems for the pool on to make sure the pool is well-maintained.

“While we wait for the SOP from the government on pool usage, we have started to sanitise all sunbeds, side tables and high-touch surfaces in the surrounding pool area. The sunbeds are spaced apart as per physical distancing regulations.

“Our staff members have also undergone service training to prepare them for the new norms.

“Besides that, we are continuing our practice of daily cleaning and maintenance of the pool as well as preparing log books for guest record usage as required by the authorities.

“For crowd control, we will have one senior staff member at the pool to control the number of guests as per SOPs at the pool area,” she said.

To tempt holidaymakers, the hotel is offering a Stay Safe promotion, Indulgence Stay promotion and Luxury Stay promotion valid until Aug 31.

Senior Minister (Security) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob announced that the government had agreed to allow public and private pools at hotels, gated residences, apartments, and condominiums to resume beginning July 1.

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