

CITY OF MAPLE RIDGE NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maple Ridge Leisure Centre Pools to Reopen September 28, 2020

Maple Ridge, BC: The Maple Ridge Leisure Centre (MRLC) pools are reopening September 28 with safety measures in place that align with Public Health Orders, BC's Restart Plan and industry specific guidelines including the British Columbia Recreation & Parks Association (BCRPA) and Lifesaving Society (LSS). The pool will reopen in stages, with the first stage providing registered access to lane and leisure swimming, aquafit and swim club training. An update on swimming lessons is expected later in the fall.

"Access to community amenities such as the MRLC are key to ensuring our residents can remain active and healthy during the pandemic. Residents were thrilled to be back in the newly renovated pool shortly before we had to close our doors again due to COVID-19," said Christa Balatti, Health & Wellness Manager. "Our Aquatics team has developed a comprehensive safety plan to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19. In addition to requiring registration for all activities, the safety plan also outlines new procedures surrounding physical distancing, mandatory health screenings, facility capacity and sanitization.

While the safety plan procedures will change the typical pool experience, they are necessary to ensure the pools reopen as safely as possible. We will continue to evaluate updates from the PHO and local health authority on a regular basis and will work towards a full facility reopening when it is safe to do so."

The reopening of the indoor pool at the MRLC will complement a variety of registered programs and services including the Fitness Centre, gymnasium and indoor group fitness programming that reopened earlier this summer.

Registration for drop-in pool activities will begin September 20 at 8:00 am both online (<u>mapleridge.ca/1484</u>) and over the phone (604-467-7422). Starting in October, registration for all fall drop-in activities will be on a month-by-month basis.

Learn more at mapleridge.ca/1452 where you will find the schedule of registered pool drop-in activities, an FAQ, registration information, a copy of the safety plan and more.