

Make a family splash at Edinburgh Leisure

Edinburgh Leisure has introduced new Family Swim sessions at the five pools which are open, all in a bid to offer activities for all ages and stages.

These sessions are available to book at Ainslie Park Leisure Centre, Drumbrae Leisure Centre, The Royal Commonwealth Pool, Gracemount Leisure Centre and Leith Victoria Swim Centre.

To enable customers to safely enjoy the benefits of family swimming, the pool will be sectioned off into 'pods', with each family having their own private area.

Each pod will cost from £9.60 – £12, depending on type of membership held.

Members can book eight days in advance or seven days for non-members, with sessions starting from Saturday, 17 October 2020.

Booking goes live to members from 9pm tonight on 8 October and the same time tomorrow night 9 October.

Customers can book a 40-minute session with a maximum of five people, from the same household bubble.

However, customers will need to stick to the existing adult: child ratios. This will allow flexibility for the way in which customers use the space – e.g. children from 9-12 years who do not need to socially distance, can book to attend with their

friends if they wish. During any one sessions, there will be between three to eight pods to book.

Angela McCowan, Swim Development Officer at Edinburgh Leisure said: "We are delighted to be welcoming families back to our pools. We know how popular previous family swim sessions have been so opening up our pools to families in time for the October holidays, will mean that more people, of all ages and stages, can continue to get active with Edinburgh Leisure.

"Things may be a little different than before but we have everything in place to keep families safe and most importantly, enjoy making a splash with us."

Following guidance from Scottish Swimming and from Edinburgh Leisure's Health and Compliance Manager, Edinburgh Leisure has introduced the following guidelines to keep everyone safe.

1. All Family Swim Sessions must be pre-booked online or via the Edinburgh Leisure app.
2. To book a session, an Edinburgh Leisure account is required. (This will be in place if a person is an Edinburgh Leisure customer or hold a discount or loyalty card). For customers who do not have an account, one can easily be created by visiting the Edinburgh Leisure website.
3. Customers are encouraged to arrive 'beach-ready', wearing their swimwear underneath their clothes to minimise time spent in changing areas. Lockers will be available for customer use but customers should bring their own token. (These are also available to buy at reception with cashless payment.)
4. Customers will be asked to follow the Covid-19 guidance, and maintain physical distancing, sanitising hands before and after each session, and following any signage guidance around the venue. Masks are mandatory when moving around public places, unless exempt due to age or health conditions.

5. Customers are asked to arrive only 5 minutes before their swim time. Any earlier, they will be asked to wait outside the venue, physically distanced in their groups.
6. No toys or equipment will be provided or loaned by Edinburgh Leisure. However, customers will be allowed to bring their own toys with them to the session, including floats, sinkers, armbands – but they must be washed before entering the pool. Large inflatables are not allowed. There will also be items available to purchase, using cashless payment only.
7. Once a family session has finished, customers will be asked to exit the pool safely and ensure they maintain distancing from other family groups. Although showers will be available to rinse off after the session, the use of soaps, shampoos and conditioners is discouraged. This is to maintain physical distancing. Hairdryers and customer drying will not be available.
8. Customers or any family group/household displaying symptoms of Covid-19 are asked not to book or to cancel any pre-booked sessions.
9. <https://www.edinburghleisure.co.uk/activities/swim/types-of-swimming>



Board at Leith Victoria Pool PHOTO ©2020 The Edinburgh Reporter