

Frequently Asked Questions

Does my child need to wear these during swimming lessons?

All swimmers 12 and under will be required to wear them while swimming in our facility starting May 1. This includes during swimming lessons, except for parent/child groups since the baby is in the parent's arms. Exceptions may also be made during 1:1 instruction lessons.

My kid is a great swimmer, why does he need to use this?

Drowning is the #2 cause of accidental injury-related death for children 5-14 (behind car accidents). Risk taking behavior is one of the biggest reasons strong swimmers drown. Strong swimmers may still struggle with proper breathing techniques of inhaling and exhaling while swimming. Holding your breath too long while swimming or over breathing by taking several deep breaths in a row (hyperventilating) before a swim can cause shallow water blackout. Once someone loses consciousness, the body reacts and water enters the lungs, causing drowning death if not rescued immediately. For these reasons, and because older ages are more likely to participate in risk taking behavior, our drowning prevention devices will be required for all swimmers ages 12 and under.

What is the plan for kids who won't keep them on?

Our goal is to try and find a solution. We will be offering a variety of devices to make sure children will have something comfortable that suits them. We will first ask the family and child to give the different device types a try! We will also work with you on wearing it in different ways. After testing out the different types of devices and ways to wear them, we will re-evaluate and work with the family one-on-one.

WAVE has tested their wearables on thousands of swimmers and have learned that most kids who are reluctant to wear Trackers or Goggle Clips quickly discover that after only a few minutes wearing one is no big deal. (In fact, most swimmers forget they have one on so facilities must have door alarms, so people don't accidentally walk out with them).

What are the different types of devices and how many do you have?

We have a few options swimmers can try out to be most comfortable. Swimmers can wear either an ultralight headset called a Tracker, or GoggleClips that attach to their goggles. We also have small headbands the GoggleClips can attach to for very small children. The wearables are waterproof and lightweight. There are no buttons, and they activate automatically when they sense motion. Our facility has enough headsets to accommodate our pool at capacity. However, if we run out, we are prepared to make accommodations and will look into purchasing more.

Will this cause a lot of false alarms?

When a swimmer is submerged longer than our facility deems to be safe (20 seconds), bracelets worn by the guards will vibrate. This doesn't mean a swimmer is drowning, but rather that they are submerged longer than desired. The guards, if not already aware, are notified and can act accordingly, making sure everyone is safe. If at any time the swimmer resurfaces, the vibration alerts will stop.

According to most safety experts, no one— not even adults or trained swimmers— should remain submerged for longer than 30 seconds. Doing so has been proven to be dangerous and can result in

what is referred to a "Shallow Water Blackouts." If an alert is triggered by someone diving deep, snorkeling, or staying under longer than they should, it will immediately cease once they resurface. WAVE is there just in case that swimmer, or any swimmer, does not resurface and needs assistance. WAVE is in use across the country and 1000s of kid use the wearables every day. Customers of WAVE have said false alerts have not been an issue or complaint about the product.

Why do my kids have to wear them when you have lifeguards and instructors?

In truth, even the most caring and responsible adults– including parents, lifeguards, teachers, counselors, and even swim instructors- can and do miss a swimmer who is at risk of drowning. These tragedies occur because drowning is extremely difficult to detect, even for trained eyes. It takes only seconds, is often silent, can strike anyone of any age or ability, and can look like the victim is simply swimming or playing underwater. Sadly, it happens much more often than most people realize and is what inspired the creation of WAVE.

What about children with sensory issues?

We understand that each child is different and may have different needs. Because of this, we will be offering a variety of devices to make sure children will have something comfortable that suits them. We will first ask the family and child to give the different device types a try. After testing out the different types of devices and different ways to wear them, we will re-evaluate and work with the family one-on-one.

Will WAVE make lifeguards more complacent?

No, not at all. In fact, we have found the opposite to be true. Most guards want to detect any potential event before WAVE does. We have found that most guards feel less stress and pressure when WAVE is supporting their efforts to provide a safe swimming environment. We believe that having less stress means a healthier work environment which equates to more effective lifeguarding.

Will the wearables fall off?

Most swimmers forget that they are wearing their Tracker after a minute or so. The Trackers are very lightweight and comfortable to wear, even with goggles or swim caps. WAVE worked on the Tracker design for over two years, testing almost 100 versions to arrive at a design that stays on securely during most swimming activities yet can be easily removed when leaving the water or exchanging with other users.

Headsets are tested to make sure they are secure and won't fall off your child's head. Headsets all float and will not need to be dived for or cause any extra stress for parents or lifeguards. Most swimmers intuitively put the Tracker back on if it does happen to fall off. It's simple to use and wear.

Can we wear a life jacket instead of this?

Despite kids using life jackets, drowning is still the leading cause of accidental death for ages 0-5, and the second cause of death for kids 5-12. This may be because guardians prematurely allow children to stop wearing life jackets, or children overestimate their swimming ability while not wearing one because a life jacket has always assisted them. It is also still possible to drown while wearing a life jacket! Wearing a WAVE headset is meant to be a safety supplement, and ensure our facility remains a zero-

fatality pool.

Will they be unhealthy to wear?

Unlike cellphones, the wearables use small coin cell batteries and very low power wireless communication that transmit for extremely short durations. The power output is less than typical wireless ear buds such as Apple Air pods. In addition, the wearables are only used while someone is swimming which for the most part is a much shorter amount of time than normal headphone use.

Will the facility charge extra because of these devices?

We will not be charging anything extra for these! They are also open to be used by anyone outside of the 12 and under age range. We recommend parents use it with their kids to normalize the use of them to children.



