

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
RECREATION PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDED PROCEDURE FOR CLEAN-UP OF
FECAL, VOMIT AND BLOOD INCIDENTS IN AND AROUND
PUBLIC POOLS**

Prevention Procedures:

1. Maintain all chemical feed systems and filtration equipment in good working order. Maintain the required minimum disinfection residual level at all times when the public pool is open for use.
2. All persons must be advised, through posting of signs, to bathe with warm water and soap before entering the public pool.
3. All persons with known or suspected of having a communicable disease must be advised, through posting of signs, not to use the public pool.
4. All persons wearing diapers should wear swimsuit diapers or tight fitting rubber or plastic pants.
5. Do not allow animals in the public pool.

Clean-Up Procedures:

Formed Fecal Incident in Public Pools:

1. Close the public pool. Direct everyone to leave the public pool. If there are multiple public pools that use the same filter—all public pools will have to be closed. Do not allow anyone to enter the contaminated public pool(s) until all decontamination procedures are completed.
2. Remove as much of the fecal material as possible using a net or scoop and dispose of it in a manner in accordance with OSHA. Clean and disinfect the net or scoop (e.g., after cleaning, leave the net or scoop immersed in the public pool during disinfection). Do not vacuum the fecal material from the public pool.
3. Using an unstabilized chlorine, such as sodium hypochlorite, raise the free available chlorine level in the public pool to 2 ppm (mg/l), while maintaining the pH between 7.2 - 7.5. Maintain these levels for at least 25-30 minutes before reopening the public pool. Chlorine levels should be collected from various locations around the public pool(s) to ensure that the entire public pool is being treated. In the presence of chlorine stabilizers such as cyanuric acid, a level of 3.0 ppm (mg/l) of free available chlorine must be maintained.
4. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the public pool reaches and maintains the proper free available chlorine concentration and pH levels during the disinfection process.
5. Re-opening the public pool: Swimmers may be allowed back into the public pool after the disinfection process has been completed and the free available chlorine concentration and pH levels are within the acceptable operating range.
6. Establish a fecal accident log. Document each fecal accident by recording date and time of the event, note whether formed stool or diarrhea, and note the chlorine levels at the time or observation of the event. Before reopening the

public pool, record the chlorine level and pH, the procedures followed in response to the fecal accident (including the process used to increase chlorine levels if necessary), and the contact time.

Loose (Diarrhea) Fecal Incident in Public Pools:

1. Close the public pool. Direct everyone to leave the public pool. If there are multiple public pools that use the same filter—all public pools will have to be closed. Do not allow anyone to enter the contaminated public pool(s) until all decontamination procedures are completed.
2. Remove as much of the fecal material as possible using a net or scoop and dispose of it in a manner in accordance with OSHA. Clean and disinfect the net or scoop (e.g., after cleaning, leave the net or scoop immersed in the public pool during disinfection). Do not vacuum the fecal material from the public pool.
3. Public Pools NOT using a chlorine stabilizer (cyanuric acid, dichlor, and trichlor) - Using an unstabilized chlorine, such as sodium hypochlorite, raise the free available chlorine concentration to 20 ppm(mg/l) and maintain the pH between 7.2 and 7.5. Maintain these levels for at least 12.75 hours. Chlorine levels should be collected from various locations around the public pool(s) to ensure that the entire public pool is being treated.
4. Public Pools using a chlorine stabilizer (cyanuric acid*, dichlor, and trichlor) – Using an unstabilized chlorine, such as sodium hypochlorite, raise the free available chlorine concentration to 20 ppm (mg/l) and maintain the pH between 7.2 and 7.5. Maintain these levels for at least 28 hours (or at 30ppm (mg/l) for at least 18 hours). Chlorine levels should be collected from various locations around the public pool(s) to ensure that the entire public pool is being treated.

*The cyanuric acid concentration needs to be between 1-15 ppm. If the cyanuric acid concentration is more than 15 ppm, lower the concentration to the desired range of 1-15 ppm by partially draining and adding fresh water to the public pool.

5. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the public pool reaches and maintains the proper free available chlorine concentration and pH levels during disinfection.
6. Backwash all sand and DE filters thoroughly. Replace cartridges in cartridge filters.
7. Re-opening the public pool: Swimmers may be allowed back into the public pool after the disinfection process has been completed and the free available chlorine concentration and pH level have been returned to the acceptable operating range.
8. Establish a fecal accident log. Document each fecal accident by recording date and time of the event, note whether formed stool or diarrhea, and note the chlorine levels at the time of observation of the event. Before reopening the public pool, record the chlorine level and pH, the procedures followed in response to the fecal accident (including the process used to increase chlorine levels if necessary), and the contact time.

Vomit Incident in Public Pools:

1. Vomiting as a result of swallowing too much water is probably not infectious. No action is necessary.
2. Vomiting full contents of the stomach would require the same response as that of a formed fecal incident as outlined above.

Blood Incident in Public Pools:

There is no recommended procedure for clean-up or closing the public pool after a blood spill in a public pool. However, as a matter of comfort for the patrons, the pool operator may opt to close the public pool temporarily.

Dead Animals Found in Public Pools:

1. It is the recommendation of this office that the animal should be removed immediately, by a net or scoop, and disposed of properly.
2. The public pool should be closed and the free available chlorine level should be increased to at least 10 ppm (mg/l), while maintaining a pH level between 7.2 - 7.5.
3. Swimmers may be allowed back into the public pool when the free available chlorine level has been returned to the normal operating range.

Fecal, Vomit or Blood Incident on the Public Pool Deck Area:

1. Block off the area of the spill from patrons until clean-up and disinfection is complete.
2. Put on disposable latex gloves to prevent contamination of hands.
3. Wipe up the spill using paper towels or absorbent material and place in a plastic garbage bag.
4. Gently pour bleach solution (9 parts cool water and 1 part household bleach*) onto all contaminated areas of the deck.
5. Let the bleach solution remain on the contaminated area for 20 minutes.
6. Wipe up the remaining bleach solution.
7. All non-disposable cleaning materials used such as mops and scrub brushes should be disinfected by saturating with bleach solution and air dried.
8. Remove gloves and place in plastic garbage bag with all soiled cleaning materials.
9. Double-bag and securely tie-up plastic garbage bags and discard.
10. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

* Add the household bleach to the water and gently mix the solution. Since a solution of bleach and water loses its strength quickly, it should be mixed fresh before each clean-up to make sure it is effective.

NOTIFY THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN YOUR AREA OF ANY INCIDENTS THAT RESULT IN A PUBLIC POOL CLOSING.

Revised 1/7/2019