

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCING THE RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION IN A SWIMMING POOL

Cherokee County Environmental Health Services

While a blood, vomitus or a fecal accident presents a health hazard to those persons at least in the immediate vicinity of the incident and data is insufficient to clearly define a course of action that prevents the risk of illness associated with these incidents, the risk of exposure can be reduced by implementing the following procedures at your pool:

- Prohibit patrons from entering the pool if they are suffering from a gastro-intestinal illness or have had diarrhea in the past two weeks.
- Patrons should use the toilet and wash their hands with soap and water before using the pool. Patrons should always shower before entering the pool or before reentering the pool after using the toilet.
- Require the wearing of “swimsuit diapers” and tight-fitting rubber or plastic pants by children who are not yet toilet-trained or by incontinent individuals. Remember rubber pants and special swimsuits diapers have some ability to contain fecal matter, but they are not completely effective (i.e., improperly sized, become stretched or torn, etc.) Therefore, immediately remove the child or the individual from the pool and pool area if defecation occurs.
- Do not permit diaper changing in the pool area, and especially prevent the practice of dipping a youngster’s bottom in the pool as part of diaper-changing process.
- Incorporate hourly restroom breaks into pool use and programs
- Ensure all pool personnel are properly trained in the prevention and management of pool water vomitus, blood or fecal contamination.
- Evacuate and close the pool immediately in the event of vomitus, blood or fecal contamination. Also, refer to the Department’s “Recommended Procedures for Managing Fecal Accidents or Contamination with Vomitus or Blood in a Swimming Pool”. Instruct all patrons to shower.
- Ensure that your pool water is balanced and tested frequently, and that adequate chlorine or other disinfectant residual is maintained at the appropriate recommended range of 1.5 p.p.m. - 5.0 p.p.m. Maintain the pH between 7.2 -7.8. Do not operate the pool if the filtration or disinfection systems are not in proper working order.
- Ensure that your pool, pool piping, deck, and deck piping is properly designed to prevent gray water, wastewater or sewage from backing up or draining into the pool. Ensure proper back-flow prevention is installed and in good, working condition.
- Do not allow pets in the pool area, and try to prevent wild animals from using the pool as a watering hole.

When incidents of contamination occur, log all information documenting what actions were taken to correct the situation. **Immediately report any occurrence of vomitus, blood or fecal accidents in your pool to Cherokee County Environmental Health Office at 770-479-0444**