



COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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THE TIDY POOL

February 2017

New Fecal Contamination Guidelines

Enclosed with this years pool permits are new guidelines established by the CDC for responding to fecal incidents in pools. As a public pool operator in Washington state you are required to follow these guidelines when addressing contamination.

The main changes relate to the use of chlorine stabilizers in pool water and ability to kill Cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium is a chlorine resistant parasite that has become the leading cause of swimming pool outbreaks over the last couple of decades.

Things to note include:

- Cyanuric acid levels need to be reduced to 15ppm or less in a stabilized pool for diarrheal incidents prior to super chlorinating the pool. Which requires draining pool water to lower.
- Vomit incidents should be treated the same as formed poop incidents.
- Bromine has not been shown to be effective against cryptosporidium. Pools and spas with diarrheal incidents and use bromine need to drain the pool or spa completely and start fresh.
- Keep a copy of the guidelines at your facility so they are available when needed.

New Pool Inspector

Please welcome our newest Pool Inspector Cora Siipola. Cora joined the department in August of 2015 and was primarily focused as a food establishment inspector prior to taking on pools as well this year.

Cora was born and raised here in Cowlitz County. After obtaining a degree in Environmental Science at the University of Idaho she was a part of AmeriCorps working with Cowlitz On The Move for a year before she joined the Peace Corps and served two years in Senegal, Africa.

Her background in Environmental Science led her to work as an environmental consultant for the past three years prior to joining our department. In her free time she enjoys playing soccer, yoga and the outdoors. We are excited to have her on board and you'll be seeing her at your facilities.



Swim Diapers

This is a reminder that swim diapers do not prevent fecal matter from entering pool water. Between 50-97% of cryptosporidium oocysts will enter pool water from a swim diaper within 5 minutes after having diarrhea. It is critical that patrons do not use the pool if they have had diarrhea and that parents know swim diapers are not adequate prevention for protecting the pool & swimmers.

State Pool Training in April

The Washington State Environmental Health Association and the Washington State Department of Health will be hosting their annual westside pool training on April 21, 2017 in Lakewood, WA. The training is an all day training facilitated by the DOH Pool Program. More information about this training can be found at www.wseha.org/pool-conferences. The cost of the training is \$60.00 and it includes a pool operators manual.

<https://www.wseha.org/pool-conferences>

Program Contact Info

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Are You Maintaining the Pool on Weekends

Ensuring at least one staff person that works on weekends is trained in proper pool operation is critical to protecting the health and safety of your patrons. Pools are often the busiest during weekends and this would be the most likely time an outbreak would occur if not properly maintained. Below are some reasons why the weekend person should be trained to operate the system and not just to test water.

- Inspections may occur on weekends.
- Heavier use during weekends will lead to poor water quality if not maintained.
- If chemistry is off or water is cloudy the pool needs to be closed until fixed.
- Maintaining crystal clear water reflects on establishment.
- Easier for weekday staff to maintain the pool if it is maintained every day and not just during the week.

Chlorine Gas Incidents

In 2015, California had multiple pool facilities that exposed its patrons to chlorine gas because of automated injection systems that continued to pump chemicals into the pool when the recirculation pump was not functioning. This created a scenario where liquid chlorine and muriatic acid were being added to the pool recirculation line without adequate dilution with pool water.

When the recirculation pumps were turned back on at these facilities the mixed chlorine and acid sent chlorine gas out to the pool facility and sent many children to the hospital with burns. Things to remember include:

- Ensure pool staff are familiar with the operation of automatic feeders.
- Ensure pool staff have a copy of the operations manual available and have read the manual.
- Ensure the feeder is regularly maintained by a professional.
- Verify feeders have an automatic ability to disable when pool water is not flowing.

Pool Records Requirements

Records are required to be maintained everyday the pool is open and be kept on file for at least three years. Log sheets are available on our website at <http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1090>

Properly maintained pool records can be useful during shift changes, to identify potential problems with the pool and for liability purposes.

Item to be Recorded	Frequency
Chlorine/Bromine	Taken as often as needed to verify they are within acceptable ranges and at least daily
pH	Taken as often as needed to verify they are within acceptable ranges and at least daily
Alkalinity	Weekly
Cyanuric Acid	Weekly (if used)
Spa Pool Temperature	Daily
Flow Rates	Daily
Chemicals Added To Pool	Quantities to be recorded when added to pool
Incidents of known pool water contamination	Whenever incident occurs

Area Certified Pool Operator Classes

March 17-18, 2017	Portland, OR	Bill Sexton	443-614-4789	billsexton@bestaquatic.com
April 18-19, 2017	Portland, OR	Bill Sexton	443-614-4789	billsexton@bestaquatic.com
April 26-27, 2017	Hillsboro, OR	Lori Mason	503-615-6527	lori.mason@hillsboro-oregon.gov

Please see www.NSPF.org for more CPO Class Listings.