



State of Maryland

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

POLICY ON LOOSE STOOL FECAL CONTAMINATION CLEAN UP AT A PUBLIC, SEMI-PUBLIC, OR LIMITED PUBLIC POOL OR SPA

PROCEDURES FOR LOOSE STOOL FECAL CLEANUP AND DISINFECTION AT A POOL OR SPA

1. All bathers should be instructed to exit the pool.
2. The pool should be closed and signs posted noting that the pool is closed. Document the pool closure in the daily pool operating records.
3. Remove as much fecal matter as possible from the pool and dispose of in a sanitary sewer or other approved waste disposal system. Do not dispose of the fecal waste through the filtration system of the pool.
4. Clean up any additional fecal matter with the pools vacuum system.(only if the vacuum system goes to an approved wasted disposal system, not to the filter). The vacuum equipment should be cleaned and properly disinfected before reuse.
5. Superchlorinate the pool. The free chlorine residual should be raised to a minimum of 10 parts per million (ppm) and the pH should be maintained between 7.2 and 7.5.
6. Take chemical readings every 15 feet around the perimeter of the pool to verify that the chlorine level is a minimum of 10 parts per million and the pH is between 7.2 and 7.5 throughout the entire pool. Readings should be taken with a FAS/DPD test kit to get an accurate chlorine reading. Record readings in the daily pool operating records. This chlorine level should be maintained for 16 hours.*
7. After the sixteen hours of chlorine level being maintained at 10 ppm, backwash the filter and disinfect the filter media with a 20:1 solution of sodium hypochlorite (if access to the filter media is possible).
8. Reduce the chlorine level to between 1.5 ppm and 10 ppm for a pool or between 3.0 ppm and 10 ppm for a wading pool or between 4.0 ppm and 10 ppm for a spa and balance the pool.
9. Reopen the pool.

***This policy is based on a CT formula to kill the majority of organism associated with fecal contamination of pool water, where C is the concentration in mg/L of the disinfectant and T is the time in minutes of exposure. The CT value used for this policy is 10 mg/L (10 ppm) chlorine for 16 hours which is the contact time necessary to disinfect Cryptosporidium.**