



Dear Pool Operator:

This Department has received calls from concerned residents regarding the possible occurrence of fecal accidents in outdoor swimming pools. Due to recent public interest in this topic and the prevalence of outbreaks nationwide associated with fecal accidents, we strongly recommend that you follow these operating practices:

1. Diaper-age children should be prohibited from using the adult pool.
2. Diaper changing at poolside should be prohibited.
3. The recirculation and filtration equipment should be maintained to provide maximum filtration.
4. pH should be maintained between 7.2 and 7.8, the alkalinity between 80 and 150 ppm, calcium hardness between 200 and 400 ppm and the free chlorine residual should be maintained at a minimum of 2.0 mg/L.
5. A written fecal accident policy for your facility should be prepared and implemented. All employees should receive training with regard to this policy.
6. In the event of a fecal accident, the following procedures should be performed:
 - A. All patrons should be instructed to exit the pool and the pool should be closed.
 - B. As much fecal material as possible should be removed from the pool.
 - C. For a formed stool:

The free chlorine residual should be raised to **20 ppm** and the pH adjusted to between 7.2 and 7.5. **This chlorine level should be maintained for at least 25 minutes before reopening the pool to the public. Prior to reopening the pool, the chlorine level must be adjusted to between 1 and 4 ppm.**
 - D. For diarrhea:

The free chlorine residual should be raised to **20 ppm** and the pH adjusted to between 7.2 and 7.5. **The chlorine level should be maintained at this level for at least 12.75 hours before reopening the pool to the public. Prior to reopening the pool, the chlorine level must be adjusted to between 1 and 4 ppm.**
 - E. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper chlorine level during disinfection.
 - F. The filter should be backwashed after 3-4 turnovers.
 - G. The filter tank and filter media should be disinfected with a 20:1 solution of sodium hypochlorite.