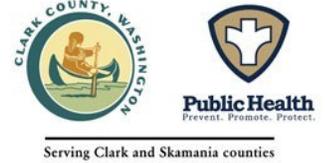


Fecal Release Incident Response Guidelines for Recreational Water Facility Staff



This document has been adapted from the CDC's *Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff* to fit the needs of Clark County recreational water facility operators.

These guidelines are for responding to fecal accidents in chlorinated recreational water venues. Improper handling of chlorine-based disinfectants can cause injury. Follow proper occupational safety and health requirements when complying with these recommendations.

Background information:

Pool water is shared by every swimmer and can be thought of as communal bathing water. It's not sterile. It's not drinking water. Germs can contaminate swimming water, causing Recreational Water Illness (RWI) that can make people sick. RWIs are caused by germs such as "Crypto" (KRIP-toe), short for *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* (gee-ARE-dee-uh), *E. coli* 0157:H7, and *Shigella* (shi-GEL-uh). RWI symptoms depend on the germ and may lead to rashes, diarrhea, and respiratory problems.

Most RWIs are spread by swallowing pool water that has been contaminated with fecal matter. If someone has diarrhea, that person can easily contaminate the pool. The good news is that germs causing RWIs are killed by chlorine. However, chlorine doesn't work right away. It takes time to kill germs and some germs (like Crypto) can live in pools for days. Even the best maintained pools can spread illness.

There are two ways to treat fecal accidents, depending on whether the fecal matter is solid (formed stool) or diarrhea. A formed stool may contain no germs, a few, or many that can cause illness. Germs in formed stool are less likely to be released into the pool because they are mostly contained within the stool. However, formed stool also protects germs inside from being exposed to the chlorine in the pool, so prompt removal is necessary. Removing formed stool from the pool without breaking it apart will limit the degree of pool contamination.

RWIs are more likely to be spread when someone who is ill with diarrhea has a fecal accident in the pool. Those who swim when ill with diarrhea place other swimmers at significant risk for getting sick. Diarrheal accidents are much more likely than formed stool to contain germs. Therefore, pool managers should stress to patrons that swimming while suffering from diarrhea is an unhealthy pool behavior.

Swim diapers:

Swim diapers do not keep fecal matter from entering the pool. As the pool operator, ensure policies are in place to require frequent diaper changing. Consider policies that require diapers to be worn under a certain age and requiring a plastic cover to be worn. Supplying a diaper changing station in the nearest bathroom that is accessible to all will encourage frequent diaper changing. Because swim diapers can leak fecal matter, Clark County Public Health recommends that children who are not potty trained not swim in communal pools.

Pool closures:

Fecal accidents are a concern and an inconvenience to both pool operators and patrons. Pool operators should carefully explain to patrons why the pool needs to be closed in response to a fecal accident. Understanding that pool closure is necessary for proper disinfection and protection of the health and safety of swimmers is likely to promote support rather than frustration. Pool closures allow chlorine to do its job— to kill germs and help prevent recreational water illnesses.

How to Respond to Fecal Release in the Pool

VACUUMING STOOL FROM THE POOL IS NOT RECOMMENDED!

<p align="center">Formed stool (Blood or vomit may be treated the same way)</p>	<p align="center">Diarrhea</p>
<p>Direct everyone to leave the pool. Do not allow anyone to enter the pool until all decontamination procedures are completed.</p>	<p>Direct everyone to leave the pool. Do not allow anyone to enter the pool until all decontamination procedures are completed.</p>
<p>Remove as much of the fecal material as possible using a net or scoop. Clean and disinfect the net or scoop. After cleaning, keep net or scoop immersed in the pool during disinfection.</p>	<p>Remove as much of the fecal material as possible using a net or scoop. Clean and disinfect the net or scoop. After cleaning, keep net or scoop immersed in the pool during disinfection.</p>
<p>Raise the free chlorine concentration to 10 ppm and maintain the water's pH between 7.2 -7.5 and temperature at about 77°F (25°C). (NOTE: check that cyanuric acid levels are below 60ppm to ensure effective disinfectant).</p>	<p>Raise the free chlorine concentration to 20 ppm and maintain the water's pH between 7.2-7.5 and temperature at about 77°F (25°C). (NOTE: check that cyanuric acid levels are below 60ppm to ensure effective disinfectant).</p>
<p>Maintain the chlorine and pH at these levels for at least 25 minutes.</p>	<p>Maintain the chlorine and pH at these levels for at least 12.75 hours.</p>
<p>Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper chlorine level during disinfection.</p>	<p>Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper chlorine level during disinfection.</p>
<p>If your filter is due for a backwash, now would be a good time. This is not a required action for formed stool.</p>	<p>Backwash the filter thoroughly after the disinfection procedure has been completed. Be sure the effluent is discharged directly to waste and accordance with state or local regulations. Do not return the backwash through the filter. Where appropriate, replace the filter media.</p>
<p>Check and record free chlorine and pH levels to ensure they are within the acceptable range. Record the date and time of incident, procedures followed, and if the fecal matter was formed or diarrhea.</p>	<p>Check and record free chlorine and pH levels to ensure they are within the acceptable range. Record the date and time of incident, procedures followed, and if the fecal matter was formed or diarrhea.</p>
<p>Allow swimmers back into the pool after the free chlorine level has been maintained for the time indicated above and the chlorine level has been returned to the normal operating range allowed (1.5-10ppm for pools; 3.0-10ppm for spas and wading pools).</p>	<p>Allow swimmers back into the pool after the free chlorine level has been maintained for the time indicated above and the chlorine level has been returned to the normal operating range allowed (1.5-10ppm for pools; 3.0-10ppm for spas and wading pools).</p>