



July 16, 2021

Dear pool and spa operators:

Contra Costa Environmental Health wants to remind pool and spa operators of the importance of maintaining pools, spas, waterparks, therapy pools, and spraygrounds in a safe and sanitary condition. We recently had a drowning and a near-drowning at facilities we regulate.

If any immediate health or safety threat is found, the health permit for a pool or spa is suspended. Common reasons for a health permit suspension are:

- Improper chemical levels
  - ◇ Free chlorine residual less than 1.0 ppm (without cyanuric acid.)
  - ◇ Free chlorine residual less than 1.5 ppm (with cyanuric acid)
  - ◇ pH below 7.2 or above 8.0
  - ◇ Cyanuric acid levels in excess of 100 ppm
  - ◇ Chlorine level above 10 ppm
- Missing, loose, or broken main drain or skimmer equalizer line suction outlet fittings.
- Lacking approved anti-entrapment devices/systems.
- Broken or inaccessible spa emergency shut off switch. Switch must run off both the jet and booster pumps.
- Gates not self-closing, not self-latching, or otherwise in disrepair.
- Enclosure damaged with large holes and/or gaps that allows for unintended entry.
- Missing or unusable rescue equipment (body hook or life ring). Body hook pole must have the attached hook and the life ring an attached throw rope.
- Waterborne illness or diarrhea incident.
- Degraded shell or decking that poses a cutting hazard.
- Pool/spa light loose, missing, or improperly secured.
- Bacteria levels in water exceeds limits.
- Lacking clean and clear pool water (e.g., High turbidity or algae accumulation, where the main drain is not clearly visible).
- Water treatment and filtration system missing, broken, or inoperative during pool hours.
- Spa temperature above 104°F.
- Operating without a valid health permit.
- Remodel work done without plan review and approval may also trigger a suspension.

If a pool or spa health permit is suspended, the facility must remain closed until the problem is corrected and a reinspection has been performed by Environmental Health. For water chemistry issues, it may take several hours or longer to get the chemistry rebalanced and stabilized to the point where a reinspection is warranted. Environmental Health tries to arrange for a reinspection as soon as possible after we're notified the problem has been fixed. We're sometimes asked to do reinspections on weekends on an overtime basis.

It is important we have current contact information (name, address, phone number, and email) for property managers and others responsible for the operation. If you're information is outdated, please send current contact information to [cocoeh@cchealth.org](mailto:cocoeh@cchealth.org)

Attached are updated pool/spa forms:

- Pool Operation Log
- Reportable Waterborne Illness Form
- Fecal, Vomit, or Blood Incident Response Report
- Near Drowning or Drowning Incident Response Form
- Lifeguard Recordkeeping Checklist

Sincerely,

Contra Costa Environmental Health

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