



Environmental Health Division • Public Information

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • <http://www.ventura.org/rma/envhealth>
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Public Swimming Pool Response for Fecal, Vomit, Blood Contamination, & Near-Drowning or Drowning Incidents

Response for Vomit and Fecal Contamination in a Public Swimming Pool

1. Immediately close the affected pool to pool users.
2. Remove the contaminating material and discharge material from the pool water into the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater disposal process.
3. Clean and disinfect items used to remove contaminating materials.
4. Ensure the filtration system is operating during the disinfection process.
5. Disinfect the pool water as follows:

Contaminant	Minimum Free Chlorine Concentration	pH	Duration	Pool Water Temperature
Vomit	2 ppm	7.5 or less	25 minutes	≥77°F
Formed Fecal Stool	2 ppm	7.5 or less	25 minutes	≥77°F
Diarrheal Stool	20 ppm	7.5 or less	12.75 hours	≥77°F
Diarrheal Stool if Cyanuric acid is used	40 ppm	6.5	30 hours	≥77°F

6. Test the free-chlorine residual at multiple points throughout the pool.
7. Replace any affected cartridge filters and backwash non-cartridge filters to the sanitary sewer after the disinfection process has been completed.
8. The pool may be reopened once the disinfection process has been completed for the duration specified and the free-chlorine concentration and pH of the pool water have been returned to the normal operating ranges.

Response for Blood Contamination in a Public Swimming Pool

Test the free-chlorine concentration in the pool water at the time of the incident. If it is below the required minimum free-chlorine concentration, you must immediately close the pool until the required minimum free-chlorine concentration is achieved.

Response for Drowning or Near-Drowning Incident in a Public Swimming Pool

Document the incident as indicated below and follow all other response procedures as circumstances warrant.

Incident Documentation

For each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning, or near-drowning incident; you must document the following:

1. The date and time of the incident, the affected pool, the free-chlorine concentration, pool water temperature, pH at the time of the incident, and facts known about the circumstances and cause of the incident. Document the free-chlorine concentration, water temperature and pH after the completion of the disinfection process and again when reopening the pool to pool users.
2. Indicate whether the fecal stool was formed or diarrheal.
3. The procedures followed in responding to the contamination incident.
4. The number of pool users in the public pool and the length of time between the occurrence, detection, and resolution of the incident.