

Guidelines for Pool Closure

Please note that the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 1913B33b (g) requires that “The Director of Health shall order closure (of any public pool) when there is significant evidence of communicable disease being transmitted through use of the pool, when the public pool is being operated in such manner as to constitute a significant health nuisance or when imminent safety hazards exist.” Of particular concern are those situations which would be considered a significant health nuisance or imminent safety hazard which would mandate closure of a public pool. The following are some situations which would be considered significant health nuisances or imminent safety hazards

- 1) Where pool water clarity is such that the bottom of the pool cannot be observed.
- 2) Where the required minimum disinfectant residual is not maintained.

In swimming pools, the free available chlorine must be at least 0.8mg/l or 1.5 when cyanuric acid or isocyanurates are used and bromine must be at least 1.5 mg/l.

In spas, free available chlorine must exceed 1.0 and bromine levels must be between 1.0 and 3.0 mg/l.
- 3) Where structural deficiencies and disrepair present substantial and imminent safety hazards to pool patrons. This would include nonfunctional circulation/filtration system as well as inadequate fencing or gates that are not self closing and self latching.
- 4) Where appropriate drain grates are not provided on bottom drains and sidewall suction fittings. These drain grates must be properly secured and in good repair.
- 5) Where adequate units of lifesaving equipment are not provided.
- 6) Where a discharge of fecal matter into the pool has occurred. Policies for the use of pool facilities by infants and toddlers should be adopted.
- 7) Where pool water temperatures exceed 104°F in public whirlpool, spas.
- 8) Other situations or unanticipated circumstances may also warrant immediate closure. Each occurrence should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The duration of the closure shall be determined by the observed conditions, the type of deficiency and the length of time required to correct the deficiency.

Although these regulations do not specify a frequency for the inspection of public pools, it is recommended that all public pools be inspected at least annually to meaningfully evaluate conformance with these regulations and to protect the public health and safety. The inspection needs to be conducted when the public pool is open or ready for use. If the public pool is an outdoor pool and used seasonally, the pool should be inspected when it is ready to be opened for the season or shortly thereafter.