

GUIDELINES FOR POOL CLOSURE

Please note that the Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19 13 B33b (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:

- Where pool water clarity is such that the bottom of the pool cannot be observed (see Subsection 19 13 B33b (b) 4).
- 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.
- Where structural deficiencies and disrepair present substantial and imminent safety hazards to pool patrons. This would include a non functional circulation/filtration system, inadequate fencing or gates that are not self closing and self latching.
- 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.
- Where adequate units of lifesaving equipment are not provided.
- 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.
- Where pool water temperatures exceed 104°F in public whirlpool, spas.

The duration of closure would be determined by the specific deficiency and the length of time to correct the deficiency. It should be noted that this is not an all inclusive list and that additional situations may occur besides those listed above which would warrant immediate closure of the pool.