

**GUIDELINES/PROTOCOL IN CASE OF FECAL ACCIDENT  
IN PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

1. Upon discovery of the accident, bathers should immediately be asked to leave the water and the pool closed.
2. Contact Napa County Division of Environmental Health, 253-4471. Ask for the pool inspector.
3. Immediately do everything possible to remove all fecal matter and cleanse the pool:
  - a) Run filters continuously for at least 24 hours.
  - b) Thoroughly backwash the filter
  - c) Super-chlorinate the pool to 10 ppm free chlorine.
4. Depending on the recommendation of Environmental Health, you may wish or be required to have a water sample analysis made. This can be arranged through any State certified laboratory, such as Caltest Laboratories. Request the laboratory to run tests for fecal coliform and coliform MPN.
5. Do not reopen the pool until water chemistry is balanced (including a reduction in free chlorine residual to no more than 5 ppm), water is absolutely clear and all fecal matter is completely gone. If applicable, Environmental Health may require an inspection before opening pool.
6. Swimming pool water is a good vehicle for the transmission of several diseases, including intestinal disorders; eye, ear and nose infections, including respiratory diseases; skin disorders such as ringworm, scabies, "swimmer's itch", and more.

The risk is even more evident when relatively large quantities of fecal matter (i.e. loose stools) are present in the swimming pool water. In these instances, the free chlorine residual in the water is much less effective and requires longer periods to oxidize (chemically destroy) the fecal matter and adequately disinfect the water. Under these circumstances, an environment is created where direct ingestion of fecal material by the bathers is possible. This can result in the transmission of numerous infectious diseases, including cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, shigellosis and other acute gastrointestinal illnesses caused by numerous viruses.

The bottom line is that the **pool must not be used** until such time as the above-mentioned corrective action has been taken. The lifeguards and other supervisory personnel on duty must be authorized to close the pool immediately when any unsafe conditions are found to exist, such as a fecal accident.

For more information on fecal accidents in public swimming pools and for CT inactivation values consult the Center for Disease Control website at:

[http://www.cdc.gov/healthySwimming/pdf/Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/healthySwimming/pdf/Fecal%20Incident%20Response%20Recommendations%20for%20Pool%20Staff.pdf)

If we can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to call.