

FECAL INCIDENT RESPONSE TIPS

If you identify a fecal contamination in your pool system, follow these steps to ensure a sanitized pool and to get your facility back up and running.

1. Close the contaminated pool and anything else attached to a common filtration system.
2. Remove as much stool as possible from the pool using a net or bucket (Avoid vacuuming fecal matter).
3. Properly dispose of fecal matter in a sanitary sewer and sanitize the net or bucket.

Response steps for formed stools, vomit or blood contamination:

4. Raise chlorine concentrations to 2ppm for at least 30 minutes or follow local health code requirements. Maintain a pH of 7.5 or lower for this timeframe.
5. Reopen the pool.

Response steps for loose stool or diarrhea contamination:

Loose stool or diarrhea contamination requires a much more thorough response and should be treated as if the pool is contaminated with Cryptosporidium

4. Perform a hyperchlorination procedure. With a pool water pH of 7.5 or lower, increase the chlorine level to at least 20ppm and maintain this level for a minimum of 12.75 hours, keeping the pool closed to swimmers. NOTE: Pools containing cyanuric acid (stabilizer) will need to extend this timeline, reduce the cyanuric acid level below 15ppm and follow CDC guidelines.
5. Fully backwash the filtration system.
6. Dechlorinate the pool to normal operating levels.
7. Thoroughly disinfect the entire facility; including bathrooms, pool deck and deck furniture.
8. Document the incident, chemical levels and steps taken throughout this process.
9. Reopen the pool.

For more healthy water tips, visit www.CDC.gov/healthywater

Minimize Risk and Be Prepared

To minimize future contamination, educate staff and swimmers about the causes of recreational water illnesses and get AFO certified. The Aquatics Facility Operator (AFO) Certification will help you or your staff better understand the entire pool system and run all types of aquatic facilities safely, efficiently and confidently.