

Fecal, Vomit, Blood Contamination, Near Drowning or Drowning Incident Response at Public Pools

(Summary of California Code of Regulation (CCR) Title 22 Section 65546, see code for further information)

In responding to a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, near-drowning, or drowning incident, the pool operator shall perform the following disinfection procedures:

1. After an incident, the pool operator shall immediately close the affected pool to pool users. If the pool is one of multiple pools that use the same filtration system, close all pools. Do not allow anyone to enter the pool(s) until the disinfection procedures have been completed.
2. Remove contaminating material and discharge the contaminating material directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance with State or local requirements. Clean and disinfect the item used to remove the contaminating material.
3. Ensure that the pH of the pool water is at 7.5 or lower. Measure and maintain the pool water temperature at 77° F (25° C) or higher.
4. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the pool reaches and maintains the required free-chlorine concentration during disinfection process.
5. Disinfect the pool water as follows:

IF FORMED FECAL STOOL OR VOMIT

- Maintain the free-chlorine concentration at 2 ppm for at least 25 minutes.

IF DIARRHEAL STOOL

- Raise the free-chlorine concentration to 20 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 12.75 hours.
- If pool contains stabilizer such as cyanuric acid, lower the pH to 6.5 and raise the free-chlorine concentration to 40 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 30 hours.

IF THE CONTAMINATION IS BLOOD

- Check the free-chlorine concentration at the time of the incident. If it is below the required minimum free-chlorine concentration, immediately close the pool until the required minimum free chlorine concentration is achieved.
6. Test the free-chlorine concentration at multiple points to ensure the required free-chlorine concentration is achieved throughout the pool water for the entire disinfection time.
 7. Replace any affected cartridge filters and backwash noncartridge filters after the disinfection process has been completed. Ensure that the effluent is discharged directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance State and local requirements. Do not return the filter backwash water to the pool. Replace the filter media if necessary.
 8. Do not allow pool users back into the public pool until the disinfection process has been completed and the free-chlorine concentration and pH of the pool water have returned to normal operating ranges in accordance to CCR sections 65529 and 65530.
 9. The pool operator shall immediately document each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning, or near-drowning incident and maintain records in accordance with section 65523 as follows:
 - a) The date and time of the incident, the affected pool, the available free-chlorine concentrations, pool temperature, and pH at the time of the incident; and facts known about the circumstances and cause of the incident. This information shall also be documented after the pool operator has completed the disinfection process and again when reopening the pool to pool users.
 - b) Whether the fecal stool was formed or diarrheal.
 - c) The procedures followed in responding to the contamination incident.
 - d) The number of pool users in the public pool and the length of time between the occurrence, detection, and resolution of the incident.

(See page 2 for sample document)

