



SUTTER COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Building Inspection
Code Enforcement

Engineering/Water Resources
Environmental Health

Planning
Road Maintenance

Procedure for Fecal, Vomit, Blood Contamination, and Near-Drowning or Drowning Incident Response

The purpose of this policy is to provide EHS staff and public pool operators with procedures and guidelines to follow in the event of a fecal, vomit or blood contamination, or near-drowning or drowning incident. These procedures are applicable to all types of public pools (i.e., swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and spray grounds).

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

1. Immediately close the affected public pool to pool users. If the public pool is one of multiple public pools that use the same filtration system, then all interconnected public pools must be closed to pool users. No one shall be allowed to enter the public pool(s) until the disinfection procedures have been completed.
2. Remove the 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.
3. Clean and disinfect the item used to remove the contaminating material.
4. Ensure that the pH of the public pool water is at 7.5 or lower.
5. Measure and maintain public pool water temperature at 77°F (25°C) or higher.
6. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the public pool reaches and maintains the required free-chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.
7. Disinfect the public pool water as follows:
 - If the contaminating material is a formed fecal stool or vomit, maintain the free-chlorine concentration in the pool at 2 ppm for at least 25 minutes.
 - If the fecal material is a diarrheal-stool, the pool operator must raise the free-chlorine concentration in the pool to 20 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 12.75 hours. If the public pool water contains a chlorine stabilizer such as cyanuric acid, the pool operator must lower the pH to 6.5 and raise the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool to 40 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 30 hours.
 - If the contaminating material is blood, the pool operator shall check the free-chlorine concentration in the public pool at the time of the incident. If it is below the required minimum free-chlorine concentration, the pool operator shall immediately close the public pool until the required minimum free-chlorine concentration is achieved.
8. Test the free-chlorine residual at multiple points to ensure the required free-chlorine concentration is achieved throughout the public pool water for the entire disinfection time.

9. Replace any affected cartridge filters and backwash non-cartridge filters after the disinfection process has been completed. The pool operator shall ensure the effluent is discharged directly to the sanitary sewer or other approved wastewater-disposal process in accordance with State or local requirements. The pool operator shall not return the filter backwash water to the pool. The pool operator shall replace the filter media if necessary.
10. 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 public pool water have returned to normal operating ranges in accordance with 22 CCR § 65529 and 22 CCR § 65530.
11. Immediately document each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning, or near-drowning incident and maintain records (for at least two years, in accordance with 22 CCR § 65523) that include the following information:
 - Identification of affected pool
 - Date and time of the incident
 - Any known facts about the circumstances and cause of the incident
 - Available free-chlorine concentration, water temperature, and pH levels of the affected pool taken (1) at the time of the incident, (2) after the disinfection process is complete, and (3) when the pool is being reopened to pool users
 - Whether the fecal stool was formed or diarrheal
 - Description of the procedures followed in responding to the contamination incident
 - Number of pool users in the public pool and the length of time between the occurrence, detection, and resolution of the incident.

Based on the California Code of Regulations (Title 22)

Title 22. Social Security

Division 4. Environmental Health

Chapter 20. Public Swimming Pools

Section 65546. Fecal, Vomit, Blood Contamination, and near Drowning or Drowning Incident Response

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