



MECKLENBURG COUNTY
Public Health

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Responding to Fecal Accidents in Swimming Pools

The pool operator shall take the following steps to manage fecal accidents in public swimming pools.

Formed stool (solid, nonliquid)

1. Direct everyone to leave all pools into which water containing the feces is circulated. Do not allow anyone to enter the contaminated pool(s) until all decontamination procedures are completed.
2. Remove as much of the fecal material as possible using a net or scoop and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. Clean and disinfect the net or scoop (e.g. after cleaning, leave the net or scoop immersed in the pool during disinfection). Do not vacuum stool from the pool.
3. Raise the free available chlorine concentration to 2 ppm and maintain the pH between 7.2 and 7.5. Ensure this concentration is found throughout all co-circulating pools by sampling at least three widely spaced locations away from return water outlets. This free available chlorine concentration was selected to keep the pool closure time to approximately 30 minutes. Other concentrations or closure times can be used as long as the CT inactivation value is kept constant.
4. Maintain the free available chlorine concentration at 2.0 ppm (pH 7.2-7.5), for at least 25 minutes before reopening the pool. Ensure that the filtration system is operating while the pool reaches and maintains the proper free available chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.
5. Document each fecal accident by recording date and time of the event, formed stool or diarrhea, free available chlorine concentration at the time of observation of the event and before opening the pool, the pH, the procedures followed to respond to the fecal accident (including the process used to increase free chlorine residual if necessary), and the contact time on the pool maintenance log.

Diarrhea (liquid stool)

1. Follow CDC guidelines found here

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