

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

### DEH Circular Letter # 2005-5

TO: Directors of Health  
Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Pamela E. Scully, Sanitary Engineer III  
Recreation Program  
Division of Environmental Health

RE: Justifications for Closure of Public Pools and  
Frequency of Public Pool Inspections  
Public Health Code, Section 19-13-B33b (g)

DATE: February 24, 2005

Public Health Code, Section 19-13-33b (g), stipulates “Responsibility of Director of Health” concerning the closure and inspection of public pools.

“When any public pool is found not to meet the requirements of these regulations, or when a condition is found which constitutes a public health or safety hazard or a health nuisance to bathers or pool patrons, the director of health may order such public pool closed until corrections are made. The director of health shall order such closure when there is significant evidence of communicable disease being transmitted through use of the pool, when the public pool is being operated in such a manner as to constitute a significant health nuisance, or when imminent safety hazards exist.

Inspections shall be conducted by the director of health or his authorized agent to evaluate conformance with these regulations and to protect the public health and safety.”

#### Public Pool Closure

The following are some situations that this office would consider a significant health nuisance or imminent safety hazard, and justification for immediate closure of the pool by the director of health:

1. Where pool water clarity is such that the bottom of the pool cannot be observed.

2. Where the required minimum disinfectant residual is not maintained.  
Swimming Pools:  
The free available chlorine residual is less than 0.8 mg/l or less than 1.5 mg/l when cyanuric acid or chlorinated isocyanurates are used. The bromine residual is less than 1.5 mg/l.  
Whirlpool Spas:  
The free available chlorine residual is less than 1.0 mg/l. The bromine residual is less than 3.0 mg/l or greater than 5.0 mg/l.
3. Where severe structural deficiencies and/or disrepair of the public pool presents a substantial and imminent safety hazard to the pool patrons. This would include a non-functional water circulation/filtration system.
4. Where appropriate drain grates are not provided on the bottom drains or sidewall suction fittings. The grates must be properly secured and in good repair.
5. Where no lifesaving equipment is provided.
6. Where a discharge of fecal matter into the pool water has occurred.
7. Where the pool water temperature exceeds 104°F in a public whirlpool spa.

Other situations or unanticipated circumstances may also warrant immediate closure. Each occurrence should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The duration of the closure shall be determined by the observed conditions, the type of deficiency and the length of time required to correct the deficiency.

#### Public Pool Inspections

Although these regulations do not specify a frequency for the inspection of public pools, it is recommended that all public pools be inspected at least annually to meaningfully evaluate conformance with these regulations and to protect the public health and safety. The inspection needs to be conducted when the public pool is open or ready for use. If the public pool is an outdoor pool and used seasonally, the pool should be inspected when it is ready to be opened for the season or shortly thereafter.

cc: Pamela Kilbey-Fox, Director, Office of Local Health Administration, DPH  
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