



## PUBLIC POOL OPENING FORM

This is to notify the Medical Officer of Health of the intention to open the pool in accordance with Section 5(3), 6(1) of Ontario Regulation 565/90 made under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7.

**Name of Pool** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number at the Pool \_\_\_\_\_

Date Pool Built \_\_\_\_\_ Class (A or B) \_\_\_\_\_

### Registered Owner of the Premises

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Operator (print) \_\_\_\_\_ has been designated by me to operate the pool.

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Operator (of Pool)

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Building Management

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Intended Date of Pool Opening** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Any changes to the above mentioned information shall be immediately indicated in writing to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. In order to meet a request for the Public Health Inspection to attend the premises prior to the opening, **two weeks advance notice of the Opening Date is required.**

### Personal Health Information Privacy Act

Personal health information on this form/report is collected under the authority of the Health protection and Promotion Act R.S.O.1990, c.H.7, as amended and the Regulated Health Professions Act, S.O. 1991, c.18 and will be used for assessment, management treatment and reporting purposes. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Medical Officer of Health, 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3V6, phone (905) 885-9100 or toll-free at 1-866-888-4577.

## PUBLIC SPA OPENING FORM

This is to notify the Medical Officer of Health of the intention to open the spa in accordance with Section 4 of Ontario Regulation 428/05 made under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act* R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7.

**Name of Spa** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number at the Spa \_\_\_\_\_ Date Spa Built \_\_\_\_\_

### Registered Owner of the Premises

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Operator (print) \_\_\_\_\_ has been designated by me to operate the spa.

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Operator (of Spa)

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Building Management

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Signing Officer (print) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Signing Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Superintendent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Intended Date of Spa Opening** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Any changes to the above mentioned information shall be immediately indicated in writing to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit. In order to meet a request for the Public Health Inspection to attend the premises prior to the opening, **two weeks advance notice of the Opening Date is required.**

### Personal Health Information Privacy Act

Personal health information on this form/report is collected under the authority of the Health protection and Promotion Act R.S.O.1990, c.H.7, as amended and the Regulated Health Professions Act, S.O. 1991, c.18 and will be used for assessment, management treatment and reporting purposes. Questions about this collection should be addressed to the Medical Officer of Health, 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope, Ontario, L1A 3V6, phone (905) 885-9100 or toll-free at 1-866-888-4577.

## EMERGENCY TELEPHONE

### Class A Pool

Ontario Regulation 565 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990 Section 16(1), requires that every owner and operator shall ensure that an emergency telephone is provided that is easily accessible from the deck and that is directly connected to an emergency service or the local telephone utility.

Each day prior to opening, the emergency telephone **must** be tested to confirm that the phone system is operational. A pool must be closed immediately if the emergency telephone is not working.

The check of the emergency phone must be documented on the daily record.

Examples of a Class A pool include: A community centre, school or fitness centre.

### Class B Pool

Ontario Reg. 565 of the Revised Regulation of Ontario, Section 16(2) requires that every owner and operator shall ensure that a telephone for emergency use is accessible no farther than thirty metres from the pool.

Example of a Class B pool includes: Apartment, condominium and fitness centre.

Under Ontario Regulation 428/05, Section 13(3), a public spa must have a land line telephone located within 30 metres of the public spa that connects directly to an emergency service or the local telephone utility.



## EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

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# SPEAK CLEARLY AND SLOWLY

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1. Dial 911 or appropriate number to reach emergency services
2. Ask for emergency services
3. Report:
  - a) Type of emergency
  - b) Type of accident
  - c) Number of injured

4. Report Emergency at:

**NAME OF POOL/SPA** \_\_\_\_\_

**POOL/SPA IS LOCATED IN THE** \_\_\_\_\_ **OF THE BUILDING**

**POOL/SPA ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIN INTERSECTION** \_\_\_\_\_

**POOL/SPA TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner/operator

## PUBLIC POOLS DAILY RECORD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Day	Emergency phone:	GFIC:	Safety Kit:	Signage:	Initials:	
<b>TIME: ½ HOURS BEFORE OPENING AND THEN EVERY 2 HOURS THEREAFTER.</b>					Records of emergencies, breakdowns, chemicals added, maintenance, etc.	
Time						
FAC						
pH						
Water Clarity						
Initials						
Make-up water reading:		Total number of bathers:		Total Chlorine (Should not be greater than FAC + 0.5ppm):		
				Initials:		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

Day	Emergency phone:	GFIC:	Safety Kit:	Signage:	Initials:	
<b>TIME: ½ HOURS BEFORE OPENING AND THEN EVERY 2 HOURS THEREAFTER.</b>					Records of emergencies, breakdowns, chemicals added, maintenance, etc.	
Time						
FAC						
pH						
Water Clarity						
Initials						
Make-up water reading:		Total number of bathers:		Total Chlorine (Should not be greater than FAC + 0.5ppm):		
				Initials:		

<b>Weekly testing</b>	Date:	Cyanuric acid (outdoor pools only) <b>Not &gt; 60ppm</b> Reading:       ppm	Total Alkalinity min. 80 ppm Reading:       ppm	Initials:
<b>Monthly testing</b>	Date:	Pool outlets covers:		Initials:

## PUBLIC SPA DAILY RECORD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year: \_\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

### DAILY INSPECTIONS

Day	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Phone	<input type="checkbox"/> GFIC	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Kit	<input type="checkbox"/> Signage	<input type="checkbox"/> Drained, Inspected, Refilled	Initials
<b>TIME: ½ HOUR BEFORE OPEING AND THEN EVERY 1 HOUR THEREAFTER</b>						
Time						
FAC/Total Bromine						
pH						
Total Alkalinity						
Water Clarity						
Water Temp.						
Make-up Water Reading:	Total Number of Bathers:	Chemical Additions:		Emergencies, Breakdowns, Rescues:		

### OTHER INSPECTIONS

<b>Weekly testing</b>	Date:	Cyanuric acid (outdoor spa only) <b>Not &gt; 150 ppm</b> Reading:                      ppm	Initials:
<b>Monthly testing</b>	Date:	Emergency Stop Button:	Gravity/Suction Outlet Covers: Initials:

## OWNER/OPERATOR SELF-INSPECTION CHECKLIST

**Pool Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Water Testing
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<b>Pool</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is access to the pool preventable when not in use
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are ladders and handrails secure and good condition
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are pool walls and bottom painted white or light in colour
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a 150mm (6 inch) black disc on a white background affixed to bottom of pool at deepest point
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the main drain cover secure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the equalizer fittings secure (ie skimmer)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are pool walls and bottom in good repair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the water depth markings provided on the pool deck and are areas for shallow area, deep area and breakpoints marked accordingly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are submerged and unsubmerged ramps used for access to the water provided with one removable barrier and provided with a conspicuous notice
<b>Deck</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the pool deck level and free from slipperiness and hazards (i.e. uneven concrete, patio stones, weeds, grass, and equipment)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the pool deck at least 1.8m (6 ft) wide
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the pool deck clearly delineated from the general area where a general area is provided for any activities other than bathing
<b>Signage</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the appropriate unsupervised (no lifeguards) pool sign available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> pool is less than 93m<sup>2</sup> (1000 sq. ft.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> pool is more than 93m<sup>2</sup> (1000 sq. ft.)</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are two Health Rule signs posted in the pool enclosure
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are appropriate showering signs at the entrance to the pool deck
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Emergency Phone identified
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Emergency Procedure sign posted at the Emergency Phone
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the words <b>DEEP AREA/SHALLOW AREA</b> marked in the appropriate locations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are signs provided to indicate " <b>Caution Avoid Deep Dives</b> " or " <b>Shallow Water – No Diving</b> " for pools that have a maximum water depth of 2.5 m (8.2 ft)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class B pools with a diving board require a sign stating " <b>Danger – Avoid Deep Dives or Long Dives</b> "
<b>Safety Equipment</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a working emergency phone provided at the pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the Emergency Phone accessible from the deck (Class A Pool) or within 30 m (98.4 ft) (Class B Pool)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a non-conducting reaching pole provided that is at least 3.65 m (11.9 ft) in length
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are two buoyant throwing aides provided with 6mm thick rope attached where the rope is ½ the width of the pool plus 3 m
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a spine board provided
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a First Aid Kit provided and properly stocked
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a current copy of the St. John's Ambulance or Red Cross Society First Aid Manual

<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a test kit available and stocked with appropriate test reagents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a logbook provided with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAC/Bromine</li> <li>• PH level</li> <li>• Emergency Phone Test</li> <li>• Number of Bathers</li> <li>• Make-up Water Reading</li> <li>• Breakdowns, Emergencies, Rescues</li> <li>• Ground Fault Indicator checked (If applicable)</li> <li>• etc</li> </ul>
<b>Filter/Chemical Recirculation</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is all equipment is good working order
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the filter system operating at all times
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is the filter system in good repair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the pipes colour coded at intervals of 1.2 m <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellow – Chlorine</li> <li>• Green – Fresh Water</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there a chlorinator or brominator present to add disinfectant to pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is make-up water provided
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there an adequate supply of disinfectant provided
<b>Lifeguards (If provided)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do I have the appropriate number of lifeguards at the pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are copies of the lifeguard's qualifications available at the pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the qualifications valid and current
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the Lifeguards at least 17 years of age
<b>Change Rooms</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the change rooms maintained clean and sanitary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are the change rooms maintained in good repair
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is ventilation provided for change rooms, showers, and washrooms
<b>Chemical Storage</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Storage room is well ventilated
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical storage area is inaccessible to the general public
<input type="checkbox"/>	Incompatible chemicals are kept separate (e.g., muriatic acid stored away from chlorine)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Safe chemical handling techniques (material safety data sheets made available)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protective clothing or personal protective equipment (gas masks, gloves) are available and used properly
<input type="checkbox"/>	Emergency procedures available for any spills or accidents



## FIRST AID KIT SUPPLY LIST

### FOR PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

1. A current copy of the St. John Ambulance or the Canadian Red Cross Society First Aid Manual.
2. 1 dozen safety pins.
3. 24 adhesive dressings individually wrapped.
4. 12 sterile gauze pads, each 7.5 cm (3 inch) square.
5. 4 rolls of 5 cm (2 inch) gauze bandages.
6. 4 rolls of 10 cm (4 inch) gauze bandages.
7. 4 sterile surgical pads suitable for pressure dressing individually wrapped.
8. 6 triangular bandages.
9. 2 rolls of splint padding.
10. 1 roll-up splint.

### Also required for a Public Spa First Aid Kit

- 11.2 pairs of non-permeable gloves
- 12.1 resuscitation pocket mask
- 13.1 pair of scissors

# FECAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

1. These recommendations are for responding to fecal incidents in pools.
2. Improper handling of chlorine-based disinfectants can cause injury. Follow proper occupational safety and health requirements when following these recommendations.

## Formed stool in the pool

Formed stools can act as a container for germs. If the fecal matter is solid, removing the feces from the pool without breaking it apart will limit the degree of pool contamination.

## Diarrhea in the pool

Those who swim when ill with diarrhea place other swimmers at significant risk for getting sick. Diarrheal incidents are much more likely than formed stool to contain germs.

1. **For both formed-stool and diarrheal fecal incidents**, close the pool to swimmers. Do not allow anyone to enter the pool(s) until the disinfection process is completed.
2. **For both formed-stool and diarrheal fecal incidents**, remove as much of the fecal material as possible (for example, using a net or bucket) and dispose of it in a sanitary manner. Clean and disinfect the item used to remove the fecal material (for example, after cleaning, leave the net or bucket immersed in the pool during disinfection).

VACUUMING STOOL FROM THE POOL IS NOT RECOMMENDED.

3. Raise the free chlorine to 2 parts per million (ppm), if less than 2 ppm, and ensure pH 7.5 or less and a temperature of 77°F (25°C) or higher. This 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 contact time (CT) inactivation value\* is achieved (see next page).
4. Maintain free chlorine concentration at 2 ppm and pH 7.5 or less 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 chlorine concentration during the disinfection process.
3. Raise the free chlorine concentration to 20 ppm and maintain pH 7.5 or less and a temperature at 77°F (25°C) or higher. The free chlorine and pH should remain at these levels for at least 12.75 hours. **Note:** It would take approximately **30 hours** in the presence of **50 ppm** or less cyanuric acid, **40 ppm** free chlorine, pH 6.5, and a temperature of 77°F (25°C) or higher.
4. Confirm that the filtration system is operating while the water reaches, and is maintained, at the proper chlorine level for disinfection.
5. Backwash the filter after reaching the CT inactivation value. Be sure the effluent is discharged directly to waste. Do not return the backwash through the filter. Where appropriate, replace the filter media.
6. Allow swimmers back into the pool only after the required CT inactivation value has been achieved and the free chlorine and pH levels have been returned to the normal operating range.

Establish a fecal incident log. Document each fecal incident by recording date and time of the event, whether it involved formed stool or diarrhea, and the free chlorine and pH levels at the time of observation of the event. Before reopening the pool, record the free chlorine and pH levels, the procedures followed in response to the fecal incident (including the process used to increase chlorine levels if necessary), and the contact time.

\* CT inactivation value refers to concentration (C) of free chlorine in ppm (or mg/L) multiplied by time (T) in minutes at a specific pH and temperature.

# POOL DISINFECTION TIME

The time depends on what type of fecal incident has occurred and at which free chlorine levels you choose to disinfect the pool. If the fecal incident is formed stool, follow Figure 1, which displays the specific time and free chlorine levels needed to inactivate *Giardia*. If the fecal incident is diarrhea, follow Figure 2, which displays the specific time and free chlorine levels needed to inactivate Crypto.

**Figure 1 *Giardia* Inactivation Time for a Formed-Stool Fecal Incident**

Free Chlorine Level (ppm)	Disinfection Time*
1	45 minutes
2	25 minutes
3	19 minutes

\*These closure times are based on 99.9% inactivation of *Giardia* cysts by chlorine at pH 7.5 or less and a temperature of 77°F (25°C) or higher.

**Figure 2 Crypto Inactivation Time for a Diarrheal Fecal Incident**

Free Chlorine Level (ppm)	Disinfection Time*
10	1,530 minutes (25.5hours)
20	765 minutes (12.75 hours)
40	383 minutes (6.5 hours)

\*At pH 7.5 or less and a temperature of 77°F (25°C) or higher

## Note:

The **CT inactivation value** is the concentration (C) of free chlorine in ppm multiplied by time (T) in minutes (CT inactivation value = C x T). The CT inactivation value for *Giardia* is 45 and the CT inactivation value for Crypto is 15,300 (pH 7.5 or less and a temperature of 77°F (25°C) or higher). If you choose to use a different free chlorine concentration or inactivation time, you must ensure that the CT inactivation values remain the same.

For example, to determine the length of time needed to disinfect a pool after a diarrheal incident at 15 ppm, use the following formula:  $C \times T = 15,300$ .

Solve for time:  $T = 15,300 \div 15 \text{ ppm} = 1020 \text{ minutes}$  or 17 hours. It would take 17 hours to inactivate Crypto at 15 ppm.

Adapted from: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 2010. *Fecal Incident Response Recommendations for Pool Staff*. Online: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/resources/> [accessed March 2011].

# Cleaning Up Body Fluid Spills on Pool Surfaces

Body fluids, including blood, feces, and vomit are all considered potentially contaminated with blood borne or other germs. Therefore, spills of these fluids on the pool deck should be cleaned up and the contaminated surfaces disinfected immediately.

## Clean-up Procedure Using Bleach Solution

One of the most commonly used chemicals for disinfection is a homemade solution of household bleach and water. Since a solution of bleach and water loses its strength quickly, a fresh mixture should be made before each clean up to make sure it is effective.

1. Block off the area of the spill from patrons until clean up and disinfection is complete.
2. Put on disposable gloves to prevent contamination of hands.
3. Wipe up the spill using paper towels or absorbent material and place in plastic garbage bag.
4. Gently pour bleach solution onto all contaminated areas of the surface.
5. Let the bleach solution remain on the contaminated area for 20 minutes.
6. Wipe up the remaining bleach solution.
7. All non-disposable cleaning materials used such as mops and scrub brushes should be disinfected by saturating with bleach solution and air-dried.
8. Remove gloves and place in plastic garbage bags with all soiled cleaning materials.
9. Double-bag and securely tie-up plastic garbage bags and discard.

### Recipe for Bleach Disinfecting Solution

9 parts cool water  
1 part household bleach

Add the household bleach to the water. Gently mix the solution.

# WATER CONTAMINATION RESPONSE LOG

<b>Person Conducting Contamination Response</b>						
<b>Operator on Duty</b>						
<b>Date (mm/dd/yyyy) of Incident Response</b>						
<b>Time of Incident Response</b>						
<b>Water Feature or Area Contaminated</b>						
<b>Number of People in Water</b>						
<b>Type/Form of Contamination in Water: Fecal Accident (Formed Stool or Diarrhea), Vomit, Blood</b>						
<b>Time that pool/spa was Closed</b>						
<b>Stabilizer Used in Water Feature (Yes/No)</b>						
	Water Quality Measurements					
	Level at Closure	1	2	3	4	Level Prior to Reopening
<b>Free Residual Chlorine</b> (1-4 are measurements spread evenly thru the closure time)						
<b>pH</b> (1-4 are measurements spread evenly thru the closure time)						
<b>Date (mm/dd/yyyy) that Water Feature was Reopened</b>						
<b>Time that Water Feature was Reopened</b>						
<b>Total Contact Time</b> (Time from when disinfectant reached desired level to when disinfectant levels were reduced prior to opening)						
<b>Remediation Procedure(s) Used and Comments/Notes</b>						

## Swimming Pool Outlet Covers

Ontario Regulation 565 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario 1990 was amended to provide standards for the inspection of water outlet covers. These standards were established to ensure that water outlet covers are provided and maintained securely in place in pools.

In 1991 a lifeguard drowned when she got her foot caught in the main drain cover of a public swimming pool. A Coroner's inquest into the incident determined this accident could have been prevented if the cover to the main drain was secured in place. As a result, the jury recommended that all water outlet covers be routinely inspected to ensure they are secured in place. This resulted in an amendment to the Public Pools Regulation 565, 1990 with the addition of section 16.1 and 16.2.

Ontario Regulation 565 of the Revised Regulations of Ontario 1990 Section 16.2 requires that:

- a) All of the pool's outlet covers are inspected at least once within each period of 30 operating days;
- b) If any of the pool's outlet covers are found to be loose or missing, the pool is closed until the cover is repaired or replaced;
- c) A written record of the inspection is made by the person who performed the inspection; and
- d) The written record of the inspection is retained by the owner or operator for at least one year from the date the record is made.

**When a Public Health Inspector determines a pool's outlet covers to be loose or missing, an Order made under the authority of the Health Protection and Promotion Act to immediately close the pool will be issued. The pool is to remain closed until the health hazard has been eliminated. Bather safety is of paramount importance.**

# ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

## Coroner's Recommendations

Admission Standards for Public Pools were developed by the Office of the Chief Coroner to assist lifeguards and assistant lifeguards in maintaining adequate surveillance over the whereabouts and the activities of young bathers while they are inside the pool enclosure.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care strongly supports these recommendations for the purposes of preventing injuries and fatalities.

- § Children under the age of 10 years who are non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 12 years of age and responsible for their direct supervision. The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be a maximum of 4 bathers to one parent or guardian (4:1). The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be increased to a maximum of 8 bathers to one parent or guardian (8:1) if lifejackets are worn by all non-swimmers in their charge.
- § Children under the age of 10 who are swimmers (able to demonstrate comfort in the water and pass the facility swim test) may be admitted to the swimming pool unaccompanied.
- § Children under the age of 6 years may not be admitted to the swimming pool unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who is responsible for their direct supervision, with a maximum of two children for each parent or guardian.
- § Guardians or group leaders are responsible for the children in their care while in the facility and must directly supervise the children at all times.
- § Guardians or group leaders should be at least 12 years of age.
- § Ratios of instructors/lifeguards to bathers must also be maintained as per Regulation 565.

Class B Public Pools that do not require lifeguards still require bathers less than 12 years of age to be accompanied by a parent or his or her agent who is not less than 16 years of age.

# Admission Standards for Public Pools – Coroner’s Recommendations

This fact sheet provides information about the Office of the Chief Coroner’s recommended admission standards for supervised public pools in Ontario. Should you have any further questions regarding the promotion or application of the recommended admission standards, please email us at [Environmental.Health@ontario.ca](mailto:Environmental.Health@ontario.ca)

## What are the recommended admission standards?

Admission standards apply child to parent/guardian ratios as a means of increasing direct supervision of young children, particularly those that are non-swimmers. The additional level of supervision assists lifeguards in maintaining adequate surveillance of the whereabouts and activities of young bathers while inside the pool enclosure.

The Office of the Chief Coroner’s (Coroner) recommended admission standards for supervised public pools are:

Children under the age of ten (10) would require supervision or be able to demonstrate comfort in the water by passing a facility swim test.

- A child under the age of ten is assumed to be a non-swimmer upon admittance to the pool and must be accompanied and directly supervised by a guardian of at least 12 years of age. The guardian is not required to be a swimmer.
- Children aged 6 to 9 may be admitted unaccompanied if they can pass a facility swim test administered by a lifeguard.
- All children under the age of 6 must be accompanied and directly supervised by a guardian.

Recommended Supervision Ratio:

Children under age 6	Two children to one guardian (2:1) or Four children with lifejackets to one guardian (4:1)
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Children aged 6 to 9 who are non-swimmers	Four children to one guardian (4:1) or Eight children with lifejackets to one guardian (8:1)
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## Why the need for admission standards in Public Pools?

While drowning deaths in public pools are relatively rare, examination of the circumstances of recent child deaths have demonstrated that there is still room for improvement in terms of guardian supervision.

## Are the recommended admission standards a legislative requirement?

No, the admission standards are not required under the Public Pools Regulation. However, the Coroner’s Office, Lifesaving Society, Canadian Red Cross (CRC) and other agencies support the application of the recommended standards to increase safety of young bathers using public pools across the province.

## What is being asked of public pool owners/operators?

Public pool owners/operators are being asked to voluntarily:

- Post pool admission standards in specified locations at all Class A (supervised) pools;



- Have a means in place to ensure that children under 10 years of age are accompanied with appropriate supervision when admitted to the pool; and
- Parents/guardians are made aware of their responsibility to supervise the children in their care at all times in accordance with the admission standards.

**Are there any exemptions to the recommended admission standards?**

When conducting an activity such as swimming lessons in a controlled setting, adherence to the recommended admission standards is not necessary given the additional control and supervision being provided.

**What would be an example of a “means” to ensure that children are accompanied by appropriate supervision when admitted to the pool?**

One example that could be adapted by a pool owner/operator is the Lifesaving Society’s “Red Yellow Green System” which uses a colour-coded bracelet system. For example, a yellow bracelet could identify a child that is under age 10 and accompanied with a guardian. A red bracelet could identify if the child is unaccompanied and therefore required to pass a swim facility test. A green bracelet may be granted to a child under age 10 but over 6 years that passes a swim facility test and therefore does not require supervision.

**How do operators of public pools determine if a child is a non-swimmer?**

A child under age 10 is assumed to be a “non-swimmer” upon being admitted to the public pool. A child aged 6 to 9 years old may be determined to be a “swimmer” if they are able to demonstrate comfort in the water and pass a facility swim test.

The Lifesaving Society publishes guidelines on conducting facility swim tests. They recommend that individuals should be able to demonstrate comfort in the water by swimming a minimum of two widths of the pool (approx. 50m) continuously in shallow water.

**Are other public pool owners/operators in Ontario currently using admission standards?**

70-80% of supervised pools in Ontario have voluntarily implemented some form of admission standards, including 100% of the fifteen largest municipalities.

Since admission standards are not regulated, many municipalities have chosen to make their admission standard policy stricter than those proposed by the Coroner’s Office (e.g., guardians of an older age, lower ratios of children to parent/guardian, etc).

**How could I get more information on admission standards to better protect users of my swimming pool?**

The Canadian Red Cross (CRC) and Lifesaving Society offer training in aquatic supervision. The CRC offers a swim teacher program designed to improve the overall approach to safe use of pool and waterfronts. This is offered to those that already have training in lifeguarding. The Lifesaving Society offers programs to both lifeguard trained and non-lifeguard trained individuals:

- “Aquatic Management Training” is targeted to non-aquatic individuals providing information to help ensure the safety of swimming facilities.
- “Aquatic Supervisor Training” is for those holding lifeguard training certification (National Lifeguard Services Certificate).

