

Pool News

Pool safety is number one

The pool season is in full swing!

Have a safe summer! Pool operators can review pool safety information from the Minnesota Department of Health.

[Operating a safe swimming pool](#) (PDF)

Recreational Water Illnesses

What are your questions about recreational water illnesses (RWIs)?

Find information on RWIs from the Centers for Disease Control.

[Recreational Water Illness](#) (PDF)

Don't let your swimmers get Crypto

Treat your pool after a fecal or diarrheal incident to prevent your swimmers from getting sick with *Cryptosporidium* (Crypto).

Crypto is caused by swallowing water contaminated with fecal matter (poop). If someone has diarrhea, that person can easily contaminate an entire pool.

Crypto incubates for 2 to 14 days. When people are sick with Crypto, the illness lasts for 1 to 2 weeks. They remain infectious for at least two weeks after symptoms appear. An average person has 0.14 grams of feces on their bottoms at all times. (0.14 grams is about the size of a Nerds candy and contains millions of germs).

The good news is chlorine kills most germs within a few minutes including the germs that cause Recreational Water Illnesses (RWIs). However, chlorine doesn't kill everything right away. Some germs, such as Crypto, can live in properly treated water for days.

Crypto is an extremely chlorine-tolerant parasite. This means Crypto can spread among swimmers even when the free chlorine concentration is well-maintained in pools and water playgrounds.

Keep reading to find out how to kill Crypto.

Hyperchlorinate to kill Crypto

If a fecal or diarrheal incidence happens at your pool, follow the Centers for Disease Control Fecal Incident Response guidelines for hyperchlorinating (also known as super chlorination).



[Fecal Incident Response \(FIC\) \(PDF\)](#)

The Fecal Incident Response has instructions for Hyperchlorinating to kill Crypto when:

- Chlorine stabilizer is not in the water (FIC, page 3), and
- When chlorine stabilizer is in the water (FIC, page 4).

If you use cyanuric acid, see the instructions on lowering the cyanuric acid concentration before hyperchlorinating. If the cyanuric acid concentration is more than 15 ppm, lower the concentration to 1–15 ppm by:

- Partially draining, and
- Adding fresh water without chlorine stabilizer before attempting to hyperchlorinate. (FIC, page 4)

Find more information in the updated [CDC Model Aquatic Pool Code, 2nd edition](#)

Do you keep a fecal incident log?

What do you do when you find poop in the water?

Document each fecal incident by recording date and time of the event:

- Whether it involved formed fecal matter or diarrhea, and
- The free chlorine concentration, and
- The pH at the time or observation of the event.

Before reopening, record the procedures followed in response to the fecal incident including the:

- Process used to adjust chlorine concentration and pH [if necessary], and
- Free chlorine concentration and pH, and
- Hyperchlorination time.

Download a [Water Contamination Response Log](#)

Water chemistry chart

Find a handy pool concentration chart showing pool, whirlpool, and wading pool concentration levels on the Minneapolis Environmental Health pool web page.

The chart lists the minimum and maximum concentration levels for chlorine, bromine and pH for each pool type.

[Pool concentration chart](#) (PDF)

Pool closure

A public pool must be closed immediately when:

- **There is any condition that endangers the health and safety of the public**
 - **The lifesaving equipment is not provided** ([MN code 4717.1450](#))
 - **The water clarity standards are not met** (The bottom drain must be easily visible from the pool surface) ([MN Code 4717.1750,subpart 7](#))
 - **The disinfection residuals are not met.** See the [Minneapolis water chemistry chart](#).
 - **The pool has been constructed or physically altered without approval of plans** ([MNcode717.0450](#))
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For more information about public pools in Minneapolis, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/pools>

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