

POOL FACILITIES

Facility Pools and Responsibilities

If you are a municipal official or commercial facility owner who wants to provide bathing facilities to the public, you must contact the Clinton County Health Department's Environmental Health Unit prior to building, repairing or renovating your bathing facility(s).

Swimming pool facility covers swimming pool, wading pool, spa pool or hot tub, white-water slide, wave pool, lazy river, special-purpose pool, and movable-bottom pool. Subpart 6-1 outlines your responsibilities to ensure your bathing pool patrons have a sanitary and safe pool outing. Clinton County Health Department is your partner in reducing your liability from bather illness, injury and deaths. We work with you to insure that your swimming pool meets all the required codes.

The below sections should assist you in your responsibilities.

How to Get a Permit to Operate

Public swimming pool, commercial or public, must be permitted. All facilities are required to apply for a permit at least 30 days before the expiration of a permit or at least 30 days before the opening of a swimming pool.

New or Renovated Public Pools (Construction)

All prospective owners or operators of a purposed bathing beach, or all owners or operators wishing to renovate or modify their pool, buildings, and appurtenances must complete a Notice of Intent and send the notice to Clinton County Health Department.

The Department will notify you whether or not plans are needed. If plans are needed, the Clinton County Health Department will require you to contact a New York State licensed engineer or architect to design your plans.

Your engineer or architect will be required to complete a DOH-1309 form entitled Engineering Report for Swimming Pool Plans return to this Department with the required fee, engineer's report, and engineer or architect plans. Our engineer will review your plans for this Department's approval or will notify you for the need of additional information.

Operator Responsibility

The operator of a swimming pool is responsible for:

- Insuring the proper disinfection of the swimming pool;
- Insuring that chemicals are properly used;
- Controlling the decorum and activities at the bathing site;
- Supplying adequate supervisory personnel including verification of aquatic supervisory staff qualifications;
- Reporting injuries, deaths and communicable disease;
- Maintaining physical facilities including ventilation.

Homeowners' Association Swimming Pools

Condominium, cooperative apartment project or corporation or associations are required to implement the following swimming pool code (Subpart 6-1):

- Be permitted;
- Be inspected by Clinton County Health Department;
- Operate and maintain pool recirculation, filtration and disinfection requirements;
- Have poolside safety equipment on the swimming pool deck;
- Develop and implement a written safety plan (except the supervision component);
- Must report the required incidents;
- Only homeowners, their families, and guests may use the swimming pool. The public cannot use this pool without the approval of the Clinton County Health Department;
- Submit the required documentation proving that your organization meets the homeowners' association exemption requirements from supervision.

Swimming Pool Safety Plans

All bathing facilities must update their swimming pool safety plan at least once every two years or when there is a change affecting the swimming pool safety plan.

The safety plans covers many items such as chain of command structure, who is responsible for what items at the swimming pool, the procedures to contact emergency medical assistance or the police, outlines lifeguard supervision, how your lifeguard(s) interacts with the bathers and other lifeguards, describes the facility's missing person search procedure, what signage is to be posted, patron decorum, opening and closing procedures, where equipment information and specifications are located, etc.

This safety plan is your facility's most important tool concerning insurance of bather safety and swimming pool operation. It is expected that your safety plan is accurate and is what really happens at your swimming pool.

Daily Operation Reports

The swimming pool operator must maintain daily records on DOH-1323 entitled Report on Operation of Swimming Pool. This form must be appropriately completed and forwarded to this office by the tenth of the following month.

Public Health Hazards

Your pool must be operated so there are no public health hazards. The following are items are public health hazards which the Clinton County Health Department must order to be immediately corrected or to immediately institute action as provided in the law and Subpart 6-1:

- Failure to provide adequate supervision of the swimming pool as prescribed in section 6-1.23;
- Failure to provide the minimum disinfectant residual levels listed in the various sections of Subpart 6-1;
- Failure to continuously operate the swimming pool's filtration and disinfection equipment;
- Use of unapproved or contaminated water supply sources for potable water use;
- Overhead electrical wires within 20 feet horizontally of the bathing beach;
- Unprotected electrical circuits or wiring within 10 feet of the swimming pool;
- Failure to maintain emergency lighting source as required in section 6-1.17(h);
- Absence of all lifesaving equipment on the swimming pool deck;
- Swimming pool bottom not visible;
- Absence of or improper depth markings at a swimming pool;
- Plumbing cross-connections between the drinking water supply and swimming pool water or between sewerage system and the swimming pool's filter backwash facilities;
- Failure to provide and maintain an enclosure around the swimming pool area that will prevent access to the swimming pool during the hours in which the pool is not open for use;
- Broken or missing main drain grate in the swimming pool;
- Overcrowding of the swimming pool that results in poor supervision of bathers;
- Glass or sharp objects in swimming pool or on deck area;
- Any other condition determined to be a public health hazard by the permit-issuing official.

Supervision Personnel

Clinton County Health Department requires all municipal swimming pools to have Supervision Level IIb (Beach/Pool certified lifeguard) as described in section 6-1.23 of Subpart 6-1.

Temporary residences may use Supervision Level IIb, III (Responsible person 18 years or older), and IV (Temporary Residence Grandparenting Provision) as described in section 6-1.23 of Subpart 6-1.

Homeowner Associations are exempt from supervision requirements in accordance to section 6-1.23 of Subpart 6-1.

Swimming Pool Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

All swimming pools must meet the following water quality monitoring requirements in section 6-1.19 of Subpart 6-1:

- Bacteriological;
- Chemical quality of the water in the pool shall not cause irritation to the eyes or skin of the bathers or have other objectionable physiological effects on bathers;
- The total alkalinity of the pool water shall be maintained within the range of 80 to 120 mg/l;
- The pool water shall be chemically balanced as determined by the saturation index as described in section 6-1.30 of Subpart 6-1;
- The bottom and sidewalls of swimming pools shall be kept free of sediment and visible soil;
- Pool water surface shall be kept free of all visible floating matter; and
- The pool water shall be sufficiently clear to permit a white and black object of four inches in diameter, placed at any location on the bottom of the swimming pool, to be clearly visible from the sides of the swimming pool at all times.

Medical Reporting Requirements

All swimming pool operators are required to make a full report to the Clinton County Health Department for any injury or illness incident occurring at a swimming pool within 24 hours of the incident and be recorded in the facility's injury/illness logbook. The following incidents must be report to us:

- Deaths;
- Incident requiring resuscitation;

- Referral to a hospital or other facility for medical attention;
- Bather illness associated with bathing water quality

Contact Us

To receive more information about public pool requirements, call or visit us at:

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Environmental Unit
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