

Delaware General Health District
Closure Policy and Suspension of Operation
Swimming Pool, Spa, and Special Use Pools
January 2010

Legal Authority: Ohio Revised Code (Chapter 3749.01 to 3749.99)
Ohio Administrative Code [Chapter 3701-31 (01-08)]

The Health Commissioner and/or a Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian of the Delaware General Health District will upon inspection of a public swimming pool, spa, or special use pool, **ask for immediate voluntary closure of the facility if one or more of the following situations takes place:**

- 1) Not having a current or valid license. Licenses for an existing facility must be renewed on or before the last day of May of each year. Licenses are not transferable. Should the swimming pool facility be sold or transferred to a new owner or company, the new management must make application for a new license before the sale or transfer.
- 2) The vacuum limit switch on a spa, wading pool, or a pool of less than 5 feet depth is not operating properly.
- 3) Night swimming shall not be permitted when adequate area lighting or area and underwater lighting do not sufficiently illuminate the pool or spa bottom.
- 4) Any person is found with an obvious infectious wound, observed passing feces, urine, or blood into a pool, spa, or special use pool.
- 5) When feces, urine, or blood is found in the pool, spa, or special use pool.
- 6) Having an insufficient number of lifeguards on duty. Lifeguards are also required to be on duty during all swim practices, swim meets, swimming lessons and while coaching.
- 7) Lifeguards who do not have the proper certifications, current certifications, an individual CPR mask or sufficient safety equipment must not be allowed to complete lifeguard duties. Duties include watching the pool, responding to an emergency and any other duties regarding the safety of swimmers.
- 8) Having an insufficient number of lifeguards observing a zero depth or other uniquely designed pool or section of a pool.
- 9) Swimming pool or special use pool water temperatures found to be greater than ninety (90) degrees Fahrenheit. Spa water found to be greater than one hundred and four (104) degrees Fahrenheit.
- 10) Pool, spa, or special use pool water is found to not be continuously re-circulated or filtered or having equipment where re-circulation and filtration is not operating twenty-four hours a day.
- 11) If the grate or other covering for any main drain or other suction outlet is not properly in place and securely fastened. A shepherd's hook can be used to determine security.
- 12) No measurable level of disinfection is found. All swimming pools and special use pools must maintain a minimum free chlorine level of one (1.0) parts per million (ppm) or a level of two (2.0) ppm free bromine. All spas must maintain a free chlorine/bromine level of two (2.0) ppm.

13) The disinfection system is not operable. Disinfection must be continuous using a chemical-feeding device connected directly to the pool's, special use pool's, or spa's re-circulation system. No licensee shall continuously disinfect a pool, spa, or special use pool by means of hand dosing disinfectant. Automatic chemical controllers for a pool, spa, or special use pool must be operational at all times to monitor and adjust the level of free chlorine or bromine and the level of pH of the water in the pool, spa, or special use pool.

14) The water supply does not meet safe bacteriological standards. A water test shall not test positive for coliform organisms when the membrane filter (MF/TC) test is used.

15) Insufficient clarity when in use that a black disc, six inches in diameter, is not readily visible when placed on a light field at the deepest point of the pool, spa, or special use pool and viewed from the side. The main drains shall be visible at all times.

16) The quality of the water is unacceptable due to algae, cloudy water, a communicable disease outbreak or other identifiable disease that would affect the pool patrons.

17) The combined chlorine level is found to be greater than 0.3 part per million (ppm). The swimming pool, spa or special use pool must be shut down for shocking and super-chlorination.

18) Any other condition in or around the swimming pool, spa, or special use pool which is an immediate threat to the public's health or a safety hazard to people using the facility (electrical, chemical, physical).

19) If the interlock with the circulation pump is not working to prevent the pumping of chemicals when there is not recirculation flow.

20) Perimeter fence or barrier which does not prevent unauthorized entry into the pool. This includes a gate which is no longer self closing, or is not operating as originally approved.

The immediate closure of special use equipment will be requested in the following situations:

1) Closure of a slide, which is more than ten feet above the water, when a lifeguard is not present or is not stationed with a clear view and rapid access to any landing area for the slide.

2) Closure of a slide, when an additional lifeguard, in addition to any lifeguards required, is not available for a slide twenty-five or more feet above the surface of the water.

3) Closure of a flume, drop or speed slide over 25 feet in height, when a dispatching attendant is not available to establish spacing between riders in the landing area or while still on the slide. The dispatching attendant shall remain in continual visual or verbal contact with the lifeguard responsible for the landing area.

4) Closure of a special use pool with one or more recreational water slides without a lifeguard or attendant present in the vicinity of the slide or slides to supervise the use of the slide or slides.

5) Closure of a water attraction, such as a raindrop fountain, that is not maintaining a minimum disinfectant free chlorine level of one (1.0) ppm or two (2.0) ppm of free bromine, prior to return to the attraction.

Once the request is made to immediately close a pool or spa, the license holder/operator or responsible person in charge shall be given a written report detailing the reasons for requesting the immediate voluntary closure.

The pool or spa must remain closed until a Sanitarian conducts a reinspection to verify the violations have been corrected.

A swimming pool, spa, or special use pool are recommended to be closed under the following situations:

* Poor weather conditions such as thunderstorms, lightening (electrical storms), or when the National Weather Service has issued a tornado watch or warning.