



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Planning, Building & Environmental Services

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**FECAL, VOMIT, BLOOD CONTAMINATION
AND DROWNING INCIDENT PROTOCOL**

Swimming pool water can serve as a vehicle for the transmission of numerous infectious diseases, including cryptosporidiosis, giardiasis, shigellosis and other acute gastrointestinal illnesses caused by numerous viruses. To prevent the transmission of waterborne illnesses, public pool operators are required to follow specific protocols in the event of a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning or near-drowning incident. These protocols are set forth in the California Code of Regulations, Section 465546, and are summarized below:

1. Upon discovery of a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning or near-drowning incident, pool users shall exit the pool water immediately and the pool shall be closed. No users shall be allowed to re-enter the pool water until the entire disinfection process has been completed.
2. Remove the contaminating material and discharge it to the sanitary sewer or other approved waste disposal system. Clean and disinfect the equipment used to remove the contaminating material.
3. Ensure that the pH of the pool water is maintained at 7.5 or lower and adjust as necessary.
4. Verify and maintain the pool water temperature at 77 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
5. Ensure that the filtration system is operating during the entire disinfection process.
6. Disinfect the pool water as follows:
 - a. For formed fecal stool or vomit- Maintain the free chlorine concentration at 2 ppm for at least 25 minutes.
 - b. For diarrheal stool- Raise the free chlorine concentration to 20 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 12.75 hours. If the pool water contains chlorine stabilizer such as cyanuric acid, lower the pH to 6.5 and raise the free chlorine concentration to 40 ppm and maintain that concentration for at least 30 hours.
 - c. For blood contamination- Test the free chlorine concentration. If it is below the required free chlorine concentration minimum, raise the free chlorine concentration above the required minimum.
7. Test the free chlorine concentration at multiple sampling points to ensure the proper free chlorine is achieved throughout the public pool for the entire disinfection time.

8. Replace the cartridge filter or backwash noncartridge filters after the disinfection process has been completed. Do not return the backwash through the filter. Replace the filter media if necessary.
9. Do not allow pool users back into the pool water until the entire disinfection process has been completed and the free chlorine and pH ranges have returned to normal operating ranges.
10. Document each fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning or near-drowning incident. A blank form will be provided by the Environmental Health Division.

If you have questions regarding the required protocol after a fecal, vomit, blood contamination, drowning or near-drowning incident, please contact the Napa County Division of Environmental Health at (707) 253-4471.