

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner



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DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2021-30

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu
Branch Chief, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu '21 in blue ink.

DATE: April 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Guidance for Operating Public Pools during COVID-19

In preparation for the 2021 swim season, the Department of Public Health (DPH), Recreation Program, is again issuing a guidance document to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus in and around a public pool. The attached guidance should be followed if a public pool is open and operates during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance follows CDC's recommendations.

The DPH is asking local health departments/districts to please share this guidance document with all the public pools located in your jurisdiction. This document can also be found on the DPH/EnvironmentalHealth COVID-19 website at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/COVID19-ReopenConnecticut>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19 and therefore eliminate the risk of spread to humans through the water. However, individuals using a pool or hot tub (or surrounding deck areas) in close proximity to other people outside of their household are still at risk for virus that can be spread directly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets. As such, standard mitigation strategies including the use of masks when out of the water and maintaining distance from others when in or out of pools and hot tubs remain important to COVID-19 prevention.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Recreation Program at (860) 509-7334.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH
Jim Vannoy, Section Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH



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