



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

To: Owners/Operators of Public Pools Located in Orange County

Subject: **Public Pool Safety**

Environmental Health is charged with conducting State mandated inspections of public pools, which include swimming, spa and wade pools located at hotels/motels, apartments, townhomes/condominiums and schools. This advisory is to alert pool owners and operators of potentially hazardous conditions which could cause Environmental Health to order a public swimming, spa or wade pool *closed*. Some hazardous conditions which may lead to a closure include:

- ***Loose, damaged, or missing main drain covers.*** Drownings and injuries have occurred when users became entrapped by the suction produced from the drain in the bottom of spas and swimming pools.
- ***Pool water which is so cloudy that the main drain at the bottom of the pool cannot be clearly seen.*** Drownings and near drownings have occurred when children have fallen into a dirty, cloudy pool and the child could not be located in time to effect a rescue.
- ***Missing or inaccurate water depth markers.*** Serious injuries can occur when bathers dive into a pool which is inaccurately marked.
- ***Nonfunctional recirculation system.*** If the recirculation system is broken and/or under repair, it is not possible to maintain the pool water in a clear, disinfected, and bacteriologically safe condition for any length of time. It is vital that pool water be maintained clear and disinfected.
- ***The pool fencing/enclosure is in disrepair.*** A pool which is not adequately fenced may be easily accessible to small children. Proper fencing is the primary means to prevent drownings by hindering access to the pool by small children. Changes to existing fencing or the installation of a new enclosure must receive approval from this Agency prior to the start of construction.
- ***Human fecal contamination in the pool.*** Outbreaks of disease have been associated with fecally contaminated pool water. When fecal matter is observed, the pool shall be immediately closed and the fecal matter removed. The pool shall be superchlorinated, the water filtered for at least 24 hours and the filters backwashed prior to reopening the pool. This same procedure should be employed if a dead animal is found in the pool.
- ***Other conditions not discussed.*** There may be other hazardous conditions not discussed in this advisory which may cause this Agency to immediately close a pool.

Should any of these situations occur at your pool, we encourage you to take immediate action to correct the problem in order to ensure a safe environment for pool users.

(OVER)

The circumstances and authority for pool closure can be found in Section 65545 in Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Should conditions require that the pool be officially closed for use by Environmental Health you will be notified, in writing, on an Official Pool Inspection Report. The pool site may be posted with one or more pool closure signs. It is the responsibility of any pool owner or operator to ensure that the pool that has been closed by Environmental Health is not used and to immediately correct the hazard. A closed pool shall not be reopened for use until the necessary violations have been corrected and upon specific written approval from Environmental Health.

It is hoped that this advisory will be of assistance in maintaining your pool in a safe and healthful manner. Should you have any questions or require further information about these requirements, please call Environmental Health at (714) 433-6000.