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Maine CDC Health Inspection Program Recommendations for Pool Operation During Swim Meets

- 1) Routinely operate and test the pool water per the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Pool and Spa Rules that became effective September 1, 2010. Specifically, make sure free chlorine and pH are measured and recorded three times per day and combined chlorine one time per day. The Public Pool and Spa rules may be found here:
<http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>
- 2) Increase certified pool operator supervision, maintenance and monitoring of free chlorine and pH during public events (e.g., swim meets) as per the DHHS's Public Pool and Spa Rules that became effective September 1, 2010.
- 3) For large all-day swim events, Maine CDC strongly recommends frequency of testing be increased and that measurement of total chlorine and calculated combined chlorine be obtained whenever free chlorine levels are measured and that measurements be made throughout the event to provide data on pool chemistry sufficient to characterize pool water quality throughout the event (e.g., early morning, mid-morning, mid-afternoon, and evening in addition to the three times per day, for an event with morning, afternoon and evening sessions).
- 4) Consider limiting number of swim meet days to one or two days and grade levels competing to allow the pool to recover normal chemistry levels after large bather loads.
- 5) Assess the adequacy of the ventilation system ensuring proper maintenance per the ventilation system manual or company that services your ventilation system.
- 6) Enforce the requirement that athletes shower before entering the pool.
- 7) Make sure athletes have sufficient opportunity to use bathrooms before entering the pool and reinforce the importance of swimmer hygiene and not urinating in the pool.
- 8) Have an action plan in place should pool air quality become an issue, and/or there is evidence of an increase in eye or respiratory complaints during the meet, and/or free chlorine, pH or combined chlorine levels are outside acceptable limits.
- 9) Post informational materials containing contact information of persons in charge should pool users have concerns during swim events.
- 10) If air quality is bad and attendees are experiencing signs and symptoms of nasal irritation, coughing, wheezing, red and itch eyes, and skin irritation and rashes, **CLOSE THE POOL IMMEDIATELY AND CONTACT:**

HEALTH INSPECTION PROGRAM: 207-287-5671

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND POISON CENTER: 800-222-1222