

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
SWIMMING POOL PROGRAM

**RECOMMENDED PROTOCOL FOR MITIGATING
FECAL RELEASES TO SWIMMING POOL WATERS**

The following is the recommended procedure for a **FORMED STOOL RELEASE**:

1. Remove patrons from the pool
2. Remove as much of the offending material as possible (dispose of properly)
3. Ensure the pool pH is **7.2 – 7.5**. Add liquid chlorine directly to the pool in the area of the release and then around the perimeter of the pool so that the chlorine is distributed throughout the pool. The free chlorine residual should be brought to **≥ 10 ppm** and held at that concentration for a minimum of **two hours**.
4. The pool may be reopened after two hours and only when the chlorine level has subsided (or is brought down) to ≤ 5 ppm.

The following is the recommended procedure for a **DIARRHEAL STOOL RELEASE**:

1. Remove patrons from the pool
2. Remove as much of the offending material as possible (dispose of properly)
3. Ensure the pool pH is **7.2 – 7.5**. Add liquid chlorine directly to the pool in the area of the release and then around the perimeter of the pool so that the chlorine is distributed throughout the pool. The free chlorine residual should be brought to **≥ 10 ppm** and held at that concentration for a minimum of twenty-six hours or **≥ 20 ppm** for a minimum of **fourteen hours**.
4. The pool may then be reopened and only when the chlorine level has subsided (or is brought down) to ≤ 5 ppm.

NOTES

- All pools on the same filter system should be closed to bathing.
- Equipment used for removal of the fecal removal should be cleaned and disinfected after use (e.g., after cleaning, leave the net or scoop immersed in the pool during disinfection).
- Filtration systems should run continuously throughout the disinfection process.
- Filters should be backwashed after the minimum holding time has been achieved.

If you have any questions please feel free to call the SCDHS Swimming Pool Program Office at (631) 854-2525 or visit the United States Centers for Disease Control website:

http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/pdf/Fecal_Accident_Response_Recommendations_for_Pool_Staff.pdf.