

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Environmental Health Section

EHDWB Circular Letter #2020-10

To: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

From: Pamela E. Scully
Sanitary Engineer 3
Recreation Program

Date: March 19, 2020

Subject: Public Pools – COVID 19 Guidance

The CDC has stated that there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. 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.

However, since public pools are a place where people may gather in larger numbers, the Department of Public Health, Recreation Program, advises that the pool area be closed for the time being.

Please provide the following guidance to the public pools in your area:

Closing off the pool area does not mean turn the pump off and let it sit. Public pools are designed to operate 24/7. Stagnant, untreated water is the perfect breeding ground for bacteria and could cause other problems.

DPH advises -

- 1) Leave the pump on to circulate the water.*
- 2) Per the Regulations of CT State Agencies, Section 19-13-B33b, make sure you maintain at least the minimum free chlorine residual of 0.8 ppm at all times. Daily tests should still be taken and recorded. The pH level should also be maintained and recorded.*



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To save energy/energy costs one can -

- 1) If you have a heater turn it off or at least turn it down.*
- 2) Set your HVAC in the room 2 degrees above your water temperature.*

Another alternative is to actually close the public pool by draining the water out of the pool or spa. But this should be your last resort. Please contact your licensed pool professional/service technician to assist you with this. Please note there are risks associated with completely draining a pool especially if you are in an area with high ground water. Damage can be caused to the pool structure and may even result in the actual pool structure coming out of the ground. If you do drain the pool please be sure to backwash the sand and DE filters, or remove and replace the cartridge filters.

Please reach out to your licensed pool professional/service technician if you have any questions regarding your public pool.

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

cc: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner
Lori Mathieu, Branch Chief, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch
Brian Toal, Acting Section Chief, Environmental Health Section