

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH
Acting Commissioner



Ned Lamont
Governor
Susan Bysiewicz
Lt. Governor

DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2020-43

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarian

FROM: Lori J. Mathieu
Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu in blue ink, dated 2020.

DATE: May 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Status of Public Pools and COVID-19

On March 19, 2020, the Department of Public Health (DPH), Recreation Program, issued [Circular Letter 2020-10](#) regarding public pools. The circular letter recommended that all public pools be closed due to the COVID-19 emergency situation. Public pools have remained closed and are not allowed to open until opened as part of the Governor's Reopen CT Plan.

The term "public pool" is defined in Section 19a-36(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes and includes swimming pools, diving pools, wading pools, splash pads/spray parks where the water is recirculated, water flumes, pools used for scuba diving instruction, therapeutic pools, and hydrotherapy pools or pools used in an aquatics program for persons with disabilities. The definition of a "public pool" in Section 19a-36(c), however, specifically excludes a pool that is intended for use at a single-family residence, except when such pool is used for commercial or business purposes at such residence.

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) states that there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. According to the CDC, 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. The concern with COVID-19 is not the properly-operated public pool itself, but rather the use of a public pool as a common gathering place.

During this public health emergency, DPH recommends that everyone adhere to federal and state guidance regarding COVID-19, including [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) "social distancing" guidance, Governor Ned Lamont's [executive orders](#), and [DECD's guidance](#) regarding "Stay Safe, Stay Home".

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

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c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner
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