

# 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 #2020-45

**TO:** Directors of Health  
Chief Sanitarians

**FROM:** Lori J. Mathieu, Branch Chief

Handwritten signature of Lori J. Mathieu, dated 2020.

**DATE:** June 10, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Guidance for Reopening Public Pools and COVID-19

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In anticipation of the reopening of public pools in Connecticut on June 17, 2020, the Department of Public Health (DPH), Recreation Program, is issuing the following attached guidance document to help minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus in and around the public pool. These guidance are in accordance with the CDC's recommendations. Once public pools are allowed to reopen, these guidance should be followed if the public pool decides to reopen for use during the COVID-19 emergency situation.

Public pools may open early, on June 10, 2020, for the specific purpose of lifeguard training only. The 6 feet social distancing rule must be maintained at all times.

The DPH is asking local health departments/districts to please share this guidance document with all the public pools located in your jurisdiction. This document can also be found on the DPH COVID-19 Reopen CT website at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Environmental-Health/COVID19-Reopen-Connecticut>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still 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.

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, please feel free to contact the Recreation Program at (860) 509-7334.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner  
Brian Toal, Acting Section Chief, Environmental Health Section

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