

# VOLUNTARY POOL CLOSURES

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread from person-to-person through respiratory droplets.” The COVID-19 virus is deactivated quickly using Florida-rule, compliant chlorine or bromine concentrations in pools and spas, and there is no evidence it can be spread by properly maintained water per the World Health Organization and the CDC.

There is no “required” amount of public pool maintenance service that a facility must comply with; this is an “as needed” requirement and differs for each individual pool based on conditions (i.e. bather loads, UV exposure, adjacent trees and plants, windblown debris/dirt, rainfall dilution, etc.). For a public pool facility to close by choice and avoid keeping the pool up to the standards of Florida rule/inspections they must:

- 1 • Notify the Department of Health (DOH) in the county that the pool is CLOSED; post CLOSED signage on site.
- 2 • Prevent any sanitary nuisances and keep the pool fence in a safe condition; lock entry gates/doors.
- 3 • Keep a daily log when pool is open to ensure water quality compliance (Rule 64E-9: Any able person can test the pool water and record it in the log). As long as the pool remains CLOSED, the owner/operator can record “CLOSED” in the pool log and should record the chemistry.

 The pump timer may be used to temporarily shut down the pool each day or set a variable speed pump to idle down. If the pool is CLOSED, we suggest you run the filter for 4-6 hours per day, or however long it may take to keep the pool water clear. If a pool has vacuum DE filters, this won't work (the DE falls off).

 With higher air temperatures and stronger sunshine, the chlorine residual (or bromine) should be increased to no less than 5.0 PPM to keep the pool water safely clear by preventing green algae growth and hatching mosquitoes .

 We still advise the pool should be checked at least once a day; because it will cost some professional time to turn the water from green to clear, and more importantly, there are public health and safety issues.

## Owners should be made aware of the following CDC guidance:

The CDC provides the following guidance to shut down hot tubs/spas related to aquatic facility closures. The closure of hot tubs/spas could create conditions favorable to *Legionella* and other pathogen growth in these water systems if their recirculation systems are turned off. The recommendations below are adapted from the Model Aquatic Health Code.

### Hot Tubs/Spas

1. Clean accessible surfaces, scrubbing away slime and biofilm
  2. Apply a biocidal shock treatment
  3. Drain and remove as much water from the system as possible
  4. Remove filters
  5. Leave filters to dry\*
  6. Keep the hot tub/spa as dry as possible, protecting it from external water sources (for example, hoses)
- \*Clean filters before reuse and replace filters or replace filter media as recommended by the manufacturer



For more recommendations on preventing illness and injuries at public aquatic facilities, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/mahc/index.html>. For the latest information on COVID-19, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.