



Can COVID-19 spread in swimming pools and hot tubs?



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BLUF: As of March 12, 2020, the CDC states 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.



Operators of pools and hot tubs should ensure that these facilities operate as required by NAVMED P-5010, chapter 4 and as recommended by the CDC Model Aquatic Health Code. The following are key eliminates to ensure a healthy recreational water environment.

- Ensure availability of trained operation staff when pool/hot tub is available.
- Maintain free chlorine levels continuously between 1–3 parts per million.
- Maintain the pH level of the water at 7.2–7.8.
- Test pH and disinfectant levels at least twice per day (hourly when in heavy use).
- Maintain accurate records of disinfectant/pH measurements and maintenance activities.
- Maintain filtration and recirculation systems according to manufacturer recommendations.
- Ensure cleanliness and safety of restrooms, showers, and diaper changing areas.
- Enforce bather load limits.
- Scrub pool surfaces to remove any slime layer.
- Strictly adhere to disinfection guidelines for fecal accidents and body fluid spills. See: <https://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Documents/program-and-policy-support/Fecal-Incident-Response-for-Swimming-Pool-Staff.pdf>
- Educate pool users and parents about appropriate pool use (i.e., no swimming when ill with diarrhea). <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/twelve-steps-for-prevention-rwi.html>