



Saint John of God
Community Services clg.

Kerry Services Policy

Contamination in the Pool

Completed April 2024

THIS DOCUMENT OUTLINES ST JOHN OF GOD COMMUNITY SERVICES CLG.
Kerry Services

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Contamination in the Pool

Faecal material in pools comes from swimmers not showering before getting into the water and from incidents of defecation in pools. Sweat, soap, perfume, shampoo, conditioner, aftershave, deodorant, urine, feces are all organic compounds which contain proteins. When organic compounds are introduced into a swimming pool, disinfected by-products are produced. Pool contamination leads to a chemical imbalance in the pool water and thus dirtier water. Also, there will be less chlorine available to kill harmful organisms.

What we can do?

- Ensure service users are **toileted** before using the pool.
- Any person who uses incontinence slips is at high risk for having faecal accidents in the pool. Therefore, they are required to use **protective swim pants** in the pool.
- Instruct lifeguards and other staff to **monitor the pool area** for faecal accidents and behaviour that can put others at risk (e.g. not rinsing off the soiled buttocks of a service user).
- Staff to **report any illness** the service users may be experiencing to the lifeguards. Service users cannot swim if ill with diarrhoea or abdominal cramps in the past few days.
- All staff and service users to take a cleansing **shower before entering** the pool and after using the toilet. The average person has 0.14 grams of faecal material on their "perianal surface" that can rinse into a pool if a person doesn't shower first.



In addition to the above, the lifeguards ensure that the pool and pool area are clean and disinfected. The lifeguards maintain pool recirculation rates and proper functioning of filtration systems, while frequently checking and maintaining proper disinfectant levels. All of the aforementioned measures will provide significant levels of protection from the risk of spreading a disease-causing organism.



SIGNATURE PAGE

I have read, understand and agree to adhere to the attached Procedure:

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