

# SWIM SCHOOL

## Scene

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*Still Time to Come  
to Colorado Springs!*

**July – August  
1999**



## Prevention of Disease Transmission as a Result of a Fecal Accident

- for NSSA by Alison Osinski  
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### Fecal contamination of pool water can result from:

- Human fecal matter intentionally or accidentally being deposited in the pool
- Animal, rodent, and bird droppings
- Fecal matter tracked into the pool area on shoes
- Fertilizers on grass blown into the pool from the adjoining landscaping
- Contaminated ground water, reservoirs or wells, particularly in agricultural areas, where fertilizer or animal wastes have tainted the water used to fill or add water to the pool
- Rain and storm water run-off into the pool
- Cross connections between the pool circulation and sewage systems

### Fecal contamination of pool water can cause serious illness

Ingestion of contaminated water while swimming, inhalation of water vapor above the pool surface, and body contact with pathogenic organisms and absorption through the skin while swimming can result in transmission of a variety of diseases.

Some pathogens may cause mild gastrointestinal discomfort, while others, if not recognized or if left untreated, can become life threatening.

### To lessen the likelihood of fecal contamination:

Ask swimmers to use the toilet before entering the pool, not use the pool if they are suffering from an illness that causes diarrhea, take a hot, soapy shower in the nude, prior to entering the pool; wear "swimsuit diapers" if they are not yet toilet trained or have difficulty with bowel

control, and remove their street shoes when walking on the pool deck.

In addition, do not allow pets to swim in the pool, and try to prevent wild animals, birds and ducks from using the pool as a watering hole. Good pool and deck design will prevent gray water, waste water or sewage from draining or backing up into the pool.

Maintain adequate sanitation and oxidation levels, filter pool water continuously 24-hours per day, and make sure the water is balanced, and keep the water chemistry within acceptable parameters.

### If a fecal accident occurs:

- Get the swimmers out of the pool. Close the pool for 24 hours or a minimum of 3 to 4 complete pool water turnovers.
- Remove the solid fecal matter from the pool and dispose to a sanitary sewer. Disinfect equipment used to remove matter (vacuum, net, rake).
- Shock the immediate area where the incident occurred and superchlorinate the pool to at least 20ppm and maintain that for a minimum of 9hrs. (10,000 CT value). Maintain a pH value at the lowest minimum (usually 7.2-7.4) to increase the % of hypochlorous acid formed.
- Backwash the filters and disinfect the filter media or elements with a solution of 20 parts of water to 1 part of 10-15% sodium hypochlorite (liquid pool chlorine) prior to pool reopening
- Perform bacteriological analysis on water samples taken from the pool. If using the membrane filtration technique for testing total Coliforms, fewer than 1 colony per 100 milliliters should develop. You may also request that the laboratory tests for *Cryptosporidium* protozoa be conducted. (There is no quick test at present.) Do not allow swimmers back into the pool until tests show the water is not contaminated.
- You should check with your local health department on any recent changes to their fecal accident policy. Know your local regulations – some are stricter than outlined. Some less. ■



## Aiming to Build? Connect with Others

*From the NSSA Center comes an exciting new way to boost interaction and knowledge sharing among swim school owners building or planning to build a new facility.*

Using the Internet – interested school owners can become part of NSSA's 'School Builder' ListServe group.

What's a ListServe? An electronic mailing list which enables members of an interest group to share ideas and trade emails in discussion of a topic.

One can pose a question to the group. (Like "Which is the best sand filter out there?") Any member of the special ListServe group can respond – either to the person posing the question or to the entire group.

In addition to those wanting to build, a few members who've built recently are volunteering their time to read and respond to the group's email interaction. Also tuning in are a few technical persons (engineer, consultant, etc.). The interchange & information will be very good. Frequently asked questions (and responses) will be archived & available to those who join the list new.

If you have an email address you are half way being good to go. Contact the NSSA Center and enroll. Nominal fee for being connected to this special group through March 31, 2000 is \$45.