



## Yavapai County Community Health Services

Our Mission: "Yavapai County Community Health Services will provide leadership, information, and services that contribute to improving the health and well-being of Yavapai County residents."



### Opening a Pool or Spa: Maintenance Tips for Operators

There are numerous locations that operate public and semi-public swimming pools and spas in Yavapai County. Recently, many of these facilities may have been closed or shut-down. If these swimming pools and spas have not been properly maintained, they can pose some serious health risks to the staff and the public. Below are some maintenance tips and on-line resources to help pool and spa operators prevent and minimize the spread of recreational water illnesses.

#### WHAT ARE RECREATIONAL WATER ILLNESSES (RWIs)?

- *RWIs are caused by germs and chemicals found in recreational water.*
- *They are spread by swallowing water, breathing in water mists or aerosols or having contact with contaminated water in swimming pools, spas, water parks, water play areas, interactive fountains, lakes, rivers, or oceans.*
- *RWIs can also be caused by chemicals in the water or chemicals that turn into gas in the air and cause air quality problems at indoor aquatic facilities.*

*Knowing the basic facts about RWIs, and the steps to prevent them, can make the difference between an enjoyable time at the pool or spa and getting a rash, having diarrhea, or developing other, potentially serious or life threatening illnesses such as **Pseudomonas & Legionella**.*

#### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF RWIs in pools and spas?

- *Ensure that properly trained staff are available at all times.*
- *For Spas, maintain a continuous free chlorine or free bromine level between 3.0 to 5.0 ppm.*
- *For Pools, maintain a free chlorine level between 1.0 to 3.0 ppm.*
- *Maintain the pH level of the water between 7.2 to 7.8.*
- *Test pH and disinfectant levels at least once per day (or more frequently during heavy bather use).*
- *Scrub and remove slime, biofilm and other visible build-up on a regular basis and use shock disinfectant when needed.*
- *Maintain filtration and recirculation systems and inspect accessible components for slime build-up.*
- *Maintain accurate records of disinfectant/pH measurements and log any maintenance activities that were performed (e.g. backwashed filter, drained water, etc...).*
- *Drain and replace all or portions of the water on a regular basis depending on usage and water quality.*
- *Provide disinfection guidelines for fecal accidents and body fluid spills*
- *Follow all recommendations from the CDC and always observe best operational practices.*

#### ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR POOL AND SPA OPERATORS:

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/resources/disinfection-team-chlorine-ph-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/resources/operating-public-hot-tubs-factsheet.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/aquatics-professionals/twelve-steps-for-prevention-rwi.html>