

# Swimming Pool Regulation Stakeholder Meeting

Recreational Water Team | November 5, 2020

# Agenda

- Local update and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment update
- Model Aquatic Health Code Overview
- Define Imminent Health Hazards
- Things to check at the facility
  - Introduce MAHC Transition Guide
- Feedback
- Pool Test Kit and Certified Pool Operator Voucher

# What is the Model Aquatic Health Code?

- Aquatic code developed by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Based on latest science
- Aimed at reducing recreational water related injuries and disease outbreaks

# What is the Model Aquatic Health Code?

- Includes regulations relevant to design, operation, maintenance, policies, and management
- Regulations meet national standards, promotes uniformity, updated every three years

MAHC can be found at: [www.cdc.gov/mahc/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/mahc/index.html)

# Rationale Behind Transition to MAHC

Current code is outdated, regulations haven't been updated since 1998, current regulations aren't current with Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act.

Adoption of MAHC will help reduce risk of drowning, injuries and emergency department (ED) visits, waterborne illness outbreaks, public pool and hot tub/spa closings because of public health hazards and pool contamination.

# Six Areas of Major Change

## 1. Recirculation Systems and Filtration

- Automatic feeders for pool chemicals, interlocks between chemical feeders and recirculation system, improved flow meters, automated controllers within one year of adoption.
- Additional equipment will have upfront costs, but reduced costs over time due to more stable pool chemistry.

## 2. Hygiene Facilities

- Diaper changing stations will be required in each male and female hygiene facility or in hygiene facility accessible to everyone. It will be required to have diaper changing unit, hand sink, soap dispenser, trash receptacle, and cleaning materials.

## 3. Disinfection and Water Quality

- Disinfectant/pH levels required to be checked every four hours for automated control feeders and every two hours for non-automated control feeders.
- Combined chlorine reduction levels required to be at or below 0.4 ppm.

## 4. Facility Management and Operation

- Operation permit will be required, inspections conducted based on risk, imminent health hazards defined, civil penalties for noncompliance.
- Operators will be required to obtain operating permit annually. Aquatic facilities determined to be low-risk will have less frequent inspections.
- Pool operator training requirements will change and become stricter.



## **5. Lifeguarding and Bather Supervision**

- Redefines lifeguard safety requirements and lifeguard training requirements.
- Requires safety plan be developed that covers staff duties and emergency action plan.

## **6. Risk Management and Safety**

- Required preventative maintenance plan, employee illness policy, and daily inspection checks.



## **6. Risk Management and Safety (cont.)**

- Facility modifications will include updated requirements for slip resistance, self-latching mechanisms, underwater lighting circuits, emergency phone, and signage.
- Requirements for posting inspection reports and defined imminent health hazards for closure.



# MAHC Imminent Health Hazards

- Failure to provide adequate supervision and staffing.
- Failure to provide minimum disinfectant levels.
- pH level is below 6.5 or above 8.0.
- Failure to continuously operate filtration and disinfection equipment.
- Use of unapproved or contaminated water supply source for potable water use.

# MAHC Imminent Health Hazards

- Unprotected overhead electrical wires within 20-feet horizontally of the aquatic venue.
- Non Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protected electrical receptacles within 20-feet of the inside wall of the aquatic venue.
- Failure to maintain an emergency lighting source.
- Absence of all required lifesaving equipment on deck.
- Main drains not visible.

# MAHC Imminent Health Hazards (cont.)

- Total absence of or improper depth markings – pool wall and deck.
- Plumbing cross-connections between drinking water supply and aquatic venue water or between sewage system and the aquatic venue including backwash filter facilities.
- Failure to provide and maintain an enclosure or barrier to inhibit unauthorized access to the aquatic facility/venue when required.

# MAHC Imminent Health Hazards (cont.)

- Use of unapproved chemicals or the application of chemicals by unapproved methods to the aquatic venue water.
- Broken, unsecured, or missing main drain grate or any submerged suction outlet grate in the aquatic venue.
- Number of bathers exceeds the theoretical peak occupancy.
- Broken glass or sharp objects in aquatic venue or deck area.

# Check your Facility: Hygiene Facilities

- Diaper Changing Station
  - Required within one year for all aquatic venues (pool, spa, splash pad, etc.)
  - Includes soap dispenser and trash can
  - Must be located within 300 feet of aquatic venue
- Required for new builds and "substantial alterations"
  - 4.10.1.2 A minimum to provide – aquatic facilities shall provide hygiene facilities that include, at a minimum, toilets, urinals, showers, diaper changing stations, and other hygiene facilities, as specified herein.

# Check your Facility: Safety Items

- Weir doors
- First aid kit
- Emergency phone
- Spinal board and shepherd's hook
- Depth and no diving markers
- Emergency contingency plan
- Daily operations checklist



# Check your Facility: Chemical Storage

- Chemical Storage
  - Must be outside of mechanical room.
  - Waivers considered on case-by-case basis with help from the Pueblo Fire Department.

# Thank you!

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