Maine CDC Health Inspection Program Recommendations for Pool Operation During Swim Meets

1. Routinely operate and test the pool water per the Department of Health and Human Services’ (DHHS) Public Pool and Spa Rules that became effective September 1, 2010. Specifically, make sure free chlorine and pH are measured and recorded three times per day and combined chlorine one time per day. The Public Pool and Spa rules may be found here: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/10/chaps10.htm>
2. Increase certified pool operator supervision, maintenance and monitoring of free chlorine and pH during public events (e.g., swim meets) as per the DHHS’s Public Pool and Spa Rules that became effective September 1, 2010.
3. For large all-day swim events, Maine CDC strongly recommends that measurement of total chlorine and calculated combine chlorine be obtained whenever free chlorine levels are measured and that measurements be made throughout the event to provide data on pool chemistry sufficient to characterize pool water quality throughout the event (e.g., early morning, mid-morning, mid-afternoon, and evening for an event with morning, afternoon and evening sessions).
4. Assess the adequacy of the ventilation system ensuring proper maintenance per the ventilation system manual or company that services your ventilation system.
5. Enforce the requirement that athletes shower before entering the pool.
6. Make sure athletes have sufficient opportunity to use bathrooms before entering the pool and reinforce the importance of swimmer hygiene and not urinating in the pool.
7. Have an action plan in place should pool air quality become an issue, and/or there is evidence of an increase in eye or respiratory complaints during the meet, and/or free chlorine, pH or combined chlorine levels are outside acceptable limits.
8. Post informational materials containing contact information of persons in charge should pool users have concerns during swim events.

Health Inspection Program

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