



State of New Jersey

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Pool facilities, Natural fresh water bathing beaches and residential pools: Guidance for bathing facilities affected by Hurricane Irene.

The following guideline will address the concerns for all types of bathing facilities affected by Hurricane Irene. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) urges all owners of a residential (non public) pool to review these recommendations.

The NJDHSS is providing these guidelines to all local health authorities (LHA):

Swimming Pools:

- If there is flood water intrusion of a swimming pool, the pool should be drained of all the water.
 - All pool surfaces (walls, floor, hand rails or steps, diving boards, lifeguard stands etc.) must be disinfected or washed down with chlorinated water with a concentration of 1 cup per 5 gallons or approximately 600 ppm chlorine. (as per CDC guidelines for surfaces contaminated with flood waters)
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.asp>
 - The pool can then be refilled with potable water and test the water chemistry for the following:
 1. pH (7.2 – 7.8),
 2. Free chlorine along with Combined chlorine ($\leq .2$)
 3. Total alkalinity (60 to 180),
 4. Stabilizer (cyanuric acid - 10 to 100 ppm and only in outdoor pools) and;
 5. Pool water clarity (the deepest portion of the pool floor shall be clearly visible from the swimming pool's edge).
 - The pool must be super chlorinated (shocked) at 20 ppm for 13 hours.
 - In public pools a microbiological water sample should be taken as would be required for opening of a pool at the beginning of the season.
 - If a pool only lost power to the pump and automatic chlorinator, the pool must be super chlorinated (shocked) at 20 ppm with minimum 10 ppm chlorine, wait several hours and retest chemistry as stated above prior to opening.
 - In public pools a microbiological water sample should be taken after reopening.
- Natural fresh water bathing beaches:**

- All bathing beaches must have a water sample and a sanitary survey conducted.
- Natural fresh water bathing beaches should follow the Public Recreational Bathing rule N.J.A.C. 8:26-7.18, "Microbiological water quality standards for bathing beaches."
- If the water sample exceeds the standard or if the sanitary survey discloses any condition which may present an imminent hazard to public health or safety, the bathing beach shall be closed for bathing according to N.J.A.C. 8:26-8.8, "Closure of bathing beaches."
- Precautionary environmental closures of a bathing area, without microbiological testing, on areas that have been identified as a result of heavy rainfall.
- Areas sampled as per the 2011 Work/Quality Assurance Project Plan for the Cooperative Coastal Monitoring Program must meet the requirements of that document.

If you have any further questions, please contact the NJHDSS Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program at (609) 826-4941.