

How the new Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 affect

# BUSINESSES WITH AQUATIC FACILITIES



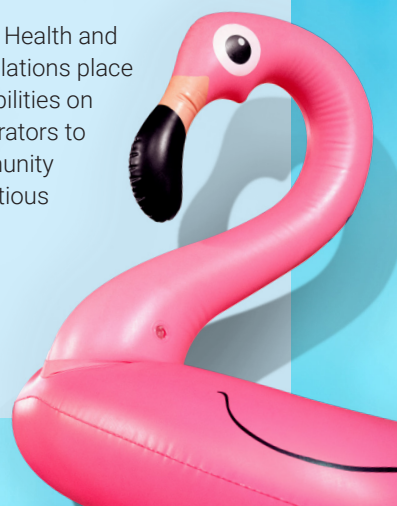
If you operate a hotel, motel or residential apartment complex that offers a pool for use by guests or residents, changes to the Victorian Government Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations will affect the way you operate your business.

The changes are designed to reduce illness and disease outbreaks associated with aquatic facilities and improve oversight of aquatic facilities with infection control risks.

The new regulations are effective from December 14, 2019, replacing the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009. The new regulations apply to two categories:

- Category 1 applies to public aquatic facilities operated by local government, hospitals and rehabilitation providers.
- Category 2 applies to businesses like hotels, motels and residential apartment complexes with aquatic facilities used by their guests.

The new Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations place some responsibilities on Category 2 operators to keep our community safe from infectious diseases.





## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR A CATEGORY 2 BUSINESS?

While Category 2 aquatic facilities do not need to be registered with their local Council, they must be maintained and monitored to keep them safe.

Businesses operating both Category 1 and 2 aquatic facilities have an obligation to:

1. Maintain aquatic facility water quality to reduce the risk of transmitting infectious diseases
2. Ensure all staff operating the facility are adequately trained to keep water quality safe
3. Develop and implement a water quality risk management plan
4. Test water quality regularly when the facility is open for use
5. Periodically test for disease causing microbes present in the water
6. Keep record of test results and corrective actions taken on water quality
7. You may receive periodic visits from a Council Health Officer to discuss the operation of your pool and how you are protecting the community from infectious diseases

## WHAT TRAINING WILL STAFF NEED TO COMPLETE?

There are no minimum training requirements for operators of Category 2 aquatic facilities but it is important to understand how water quality is impaired, how to maintain water quality and how to correct water quality issues.

For more information on understanding water quality, you can talk to your pool supply company or service agent.

## WHAT DOES A WATER QUALITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN INCLUDE?

- staff roles and responsibilities, competencies and training requirements
- a description of the facility, its source water and its treatment systems
- water quality targets and treatment objectives
- hazard identification, risk assessment and control measures
- operational and verification monitoring
- incident management and response procedures
- data recording and reporting

The Department of Health and Human Services has developed a template that you can use to build your plan. You can find the template at the following link: [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities/developing-water-quality-risk-mgmt-plan](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities/developing-water-quality-risk-mgmt-plan)

## WHAT DO I NEED TO BE TESTING FOR AND HOW DO I DO THAT?

Chemical testing for key pool water quality parameters such as pH, free chlorine and total chlorine will need to be undertaken:

- before the pool opens for the day; and
- every four hours while the pool is open

At least one of these checks should be done by hand and analysed manually each day. Other parameters will need to be tested at weekly and monthly intervals.

All the requirements can be found in the DHHS document *Water quality guidelines for public aquatic facilities*.

[www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities/quality-guidelines](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities/quality-guidelines) See appendix 2.

## HOW CAN I TEST FOR MICROBES? WHO CAN HELP ME WITH THAT?

Periodic microbiological testing will also be required for Category 2 aquatic facilities. In most cases for Category 2 facilities this will be required on a quarterly basis. Samples of pool water will need to be submitted to a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory to perform the required analysis.

## WHAT RECORDS DO I NEED TO KEEP AND FOR HOW LONG?

All chemical and microbiological test results and monitoring, and all corrective activities undertaken at the facility must be recorded and kept for a period of 12 months from the date the record was made.

## HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information about the changes, please visit:

- [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/aquatic-facilities) including access to the *Water quality guidelines for public aquatic facilities – managing public health risks*
- [www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au) to view the regulations

