

TO : Pitt County Swimming Pool, Hot Tub, Spa, and Interactive Play Attraction Operators

FROM: Kent Keeter, REHS
Environmental Health Supervisor

DATE : March 3, 2020

RE : Construction Updates and Permit Renewal for 2020

Before an Operation Permit can be issued for a public swimming pool, we must receive a completed application. The application, and additional documents, is now available online.

Owners who wish to be open for the Memorial Day weekend need to submit their completed application early. North Carolina law allows for seasonal pools to open as early as April 1st.

This Department will not schedule inspections the Friday before Memorial Day.

North Carolina's Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form must be completed, signed, and submitted along with the application to document equipment installed at the facility.

To print the application, Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form, and additional documents, please visit: www.pittcountync.gov/238/Public-Swimming-Pools-Spas

Use the state provided instructions while completing your Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form. You must verify that all of the pump model numbers and drain information submitted with this data form match what is installed in the pool. Pay extra attention to the installation date of all drain covers. If the cover is out of date, or if the flow rating of the cover cannot handle the maximum flow rating for the pump, an operation permit cannot be issued. If the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Data form is incomplete or inaccurate, an operation permit cannot be issued.

The state has issued several new guidance documents this year. These include:

- **Guidance regarding the use of amenities within the pool fence area.** This document settles the question of whether a valid permit is necessary for use of amenities within the pool fence area and what lighting is required. Owners must now obtain a year-round pool permit when areas within the pool fence are accessible to the public on a year-round basis. The owner may post a "pool closed" sign if they do not want the pool used for swimming. A "Warning- No Lifeguard on Duty" sign must be posted when the area is accessible, and no lifeguard is present. The fence and self-closing gates must be maintained. If the area within the pool barrier is to be used at night, lighting is required per Session Law 2017-209.

- **Guidance regarding electrical safety during pool inspections.** The purpose of this document is to ensure the safety of the inspector and the operator during the inspection of the pool equipment room. This document states that:
 - A visual inspection of the copper bonding wire should be done to ensure it is intact, attached and undamaged. The electrical power supply wire for the motor should not be wrapped in electrical tape or connected with wire nuts. Every time the bonding wire is reconnected to the motor an electrical inspection is required by law. The reconnection must be done by a licensed electrician.
 - If an EHS sees any problems with the bonding wire, they should immediately leave the equipment room and inform the pool operator they cannot finish the inspection because a potentially dangerous condition exists.
 - A pool permit cannot be issued under these circumstances. If the pool has a valid permit, the conditions found should immediately be reported to building inspections for that jurisdiction. The inspection should not be completed until the electrical inspection takes place. If a data safety sheet shows a new pump has been installed, verify through building inspections that an electrical inspection has been completed prior to scheduling the inspection.

- **Guidance regarding pool night lighting documentation.** This memo provides guidance for documentation and inspection frequency for night lighting at pools. Nighttime inspections are required to determine lighting for pools before they can be allowed to operate at night. When the Pool Night Lighting Documentation Form is completed, the night visit should be completed every third year. When no additional documentation is provided, (pool permit amended only) the night visit should be done annually. If any changes are made to the lighting, then a new night visit should be completed. During any inspection, the lights should be turned on to determine the lights are in working condition.

You can review all of the guidance documents and obtain the night time lighting documentation form at: www.pittcountync.gov/238/Public-Swimming-Pools-Spas

If you have a pool that was constructed after May 1, 2010, a self-closing, self-latching vacuum port cover designed to be opened with a tool is required.

The Department may have a college intern performing safety item visits again this year. If we do offer an internship, the individual should introduce themselves and present a county identification badge before performing any safety inspections.

If you have any questions on the information provided, please contact our office at (252) 902-3206. For the most recent copy of the North Carolina swimming pool Laws and Rules, Forms, and education material that is provided by the state, please visit: <http://ehs.ncpublichealth.com/faf/pti/pools.htm>