

To all Owners/Operators and Lifeguards of Public Pools

A drowning occurred when a group of young children were unsupervised by their attendants in a supervised public pool facility. A coroner's investigation into the matter noted that if the attendants had stayed and supervised the young children, the drowning may not have occurred. In response to this event, the Coroner's Office, along with numerous stakeholders, developed Admission Standards to prevent such tragedies in the future.

Attached is a fact sheet on the Admission Standards.

- Please consider these standards as a tool to assist you, the pool owner, operator or lifeguard in preventing accidents or drownings in your pool.
- We recommend posting of these requirements or advising the users of your pool through written handouts. Information of this nature is very valuable in preventing a mishap in your pool.
- Please consider the intent of these recommendations. Parental supervision is of vital assistance to the lifeguard staff in ensuring safety within a pool enclosure.
- Owners and operators of class B Public Pools that do not require lifeguards should consider advising their users to limit the number of young or non-swimmers that a parent or his or her agent takes into the pool enclosure. Use these Admission Standards as an example.

We are thankful that you care.

Local health Department

Prepared for the Protection of Ontario Residents by:
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care,
Public Health Division, Infectious Diseases Branch

ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

Coroner's Recommendation

Admission Standards for Public Pools were developed by the Office of the Chief Coroner to assist lifeguards and assistant lifeguards in maintaining adequate surveillance over the whereabouts and the activities of young bathers while they are inside the pool enclosure.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care strongly supports these recommendations for the purposes of preventing injuries and fatalities.

- Children under the age of 10 years who are non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 12 years of age and responsible for their direct supervision. The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be a maximum of 4 bathers to one parent or guardian (4:1). The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be increased to a maximum of 8 bathers to one parent or guardian (8:1) if lifejackets are worn by all non-swimmers in their charge
- Children under the age of 10 who are swimmers (able to demonstrate comfort in the water and pass the facility swim test) may be admitted to the swimming pool unaccompanied.
- Children under the age of 6 years may not be admitted to the swimming pool unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who is responsible for their direct supervision, with a maximum of two children for each parent or guardian.
- Guardians or group leaders are responsible for the children in their care while in the facility and must directly supervise the children at all times.
- Guardians or group leaders should be at least 12 years of age.
- Ratios of instructors/lifeguards to bathers must also be maintained as per Regulation 565.

Class B Public Pools that do not require lifeguards still require bathers under twelve years of age to be accompanied by a parent or his or her agent who is not less than sixteen years of age.