

**EMERGENCY ORDER (2020-11) FOR CONTROL OF PANDEMIC
CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

This Order is made pursuant to Section 2453 of the Public Health Code, being MCL 333.2453.

Matters concerning the public health of the residents of Oakland County have been brought to the attention of the Oakland County Local Health Officer. The Local Health Officer has determined that controls are necessary to reduce transmission of COVID-19 to protect the public's health of Oakland County based on the following facts:

1. A biological agent or the effects of a biological agent have been detected within **Oakland County**
2. A communicable disease **Coronavirus which causes COVID-19** has been identified that can be transmitted from person to person.
3. In order to control and limit the spread of the communicable disease, it is necessary to prevent infected people from coming into contact with uninfected people. It is also critical that essential personnel be protected.

To limit the community's exposure to COVID-19, it is hereby ordered the closure of Public Swimming Pools located within Oakland County, and are defined in section 333.12521(d) of the Michigan Public Health Code and include all pools licensed as public pools by Oakland County, including all those that are connected to or used by more than 4 units of housing, whether houses, condominiums, apartments, mobile homes, hotels, or motel rooms. Public swimming pools include those which are for parks, schools, motels, camps, resorts, apartments, clubs, hotels, mobile home parks, subdivisions, waterparks, and the like. Although water in a properly maintained aquatic venue does not pose an undue risk of COVID-19 transmission, the lack of ability to maintain social distancing in and around the pool, as well as in the associated facilities, enclosures, deck areas, sanitary facilities, all of which provide opportunities to congregate and transmit the disease. Public swimming pools are a non-essential amenity. Restrictions must be instituted regarding the use of public swimming pools at this time to minimize the spread of COVID-19 through human interaction.

As such, the Oakland County Health Officer hereby **orders** the following to take effect on **May 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. EDT.**

All Public Swimming Pools must remain closed to the public until it is determined by the Health Officer of the Oakland County Health Division that the threat to the public's health and lives presented by COVID-19 is no longer present. Owners of public swimming pools **shall POST A COPY** of this order on the outside entrance(s) to the facility, so that it is visible to all employees and persons who come to or visit the location of the public swimming pool.

Maintenance

During this closure, it is essential for operators to maintain public swimming pools and spas as to not create a situation that could cause a public health hazard. Therefore, in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978 and the administrative rules promulgated under the act, specifically Michigan Administrative Code R325.2118b, “[t]he owner of a swimming pool which is not in use or for which an operation permit is not in effect shall maintain the pool in a condition that prevents it from creating a hazard to health and safety.”

This includes maintaining water chemistry and water circulation to prevent the degradation of engineered systems, the development of a biofilm which can potentially create an environment for the growth of human pathogens such as but not limited to, legionella pneumophila and pseudomonas aeruginosa bacteria. In addition, failure to maintain water chemistry and water circulation will create a situation of stagnant water that is a breeding habitat for mosquitos that can carry and transmit vector borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and eastern equine encephalitis.

Bacteriological Samples

In accordance with Michigan Administrative Code R325.2195, once per quarter, it is the responsibility of the owner of the pool for collection and analysis of water samples for coliform bacteria. The presence of total coliform bacteria or pathogenic organisms is unacceptable water quality. This water sampling and analysis requirement remains in effect under this Public Health Order.

Re-opening

Prior to re-opening a public swimming pool and after the Public Health Officer declares that a public health threat no longer exists that requires the closure of public pools, the owner must contact the Oakland County Health Division for an opening inspection. In addition, a condition of re-opening is the collection of a water sample that has been analyzed and has an acceptable water quality result as prescribed by Michigan Administrative Code R325.2195.

Exclusions from this Public Health Order

Therapy pools or engineered water devices utilized under the direction of healthcare personnel for the purpose of providing therapy/healthcare to patients may remain open for the limited purposes of providing necessary medical services.

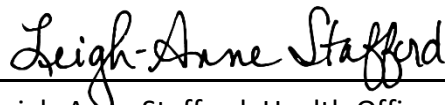
Such measures will be enforced, and any violations are subject to citation and penalties as outlined in the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order will remain in effect until it is determined by the Health Officer of the Oakland County Health Division that the threat to the public's health and lives is no longer present.

This order may be revised as well as supplemented with specific procedures and orders in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code.

This order 2020-11 is hereby effective as of May 28, 2020 at 7 PM EDT.

Dated: 5/28/2020



Leigh-Anne Stafford, Health Officer
Oakland County, Michigan