HEALTH CARE AGENCY/PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

To: Owners and Operators of Public Pools in Orange County

Subject: Changes to Public Pool Safety Sign Requirements, effective September 1, 2012

On September 1, 2012, Chapter 31B of the California Building Code was revised to include updated and new safety sign requirements for public pool facilities. Changes include two new signs for newly constructed pools. Public pool facilities approved for construction prior to September 1, 2012 are not required to replace existing compliant signs unless signs are damaged, deteriorated, or missing. Public pool facilities approved for construction on or after September 1, 2012 will be required to provide all applicable signs.

REQUIRED SIGNS (Excerpt from California Building Code, Section 3120B)

Upon remodeling of signage or the replacement of damaged, deteriorated, or missing signs, each must comply with the revised requirements outlined below.

Notations in **bold** below indicate revised requirements from previous sign requirements.

GENERAL- Unless otherwise noted, all signs shall have clearly legible letters or numbers not less than **4 inches** (102 mm) high, affixed to a wall, pole, gate or similar permanent structure in a location visible to all pool users.

POOL USER CAPACITY SIGN- A sign shall indicate the maximum number of pool users permitted for each pool. (Not required for pools approved for construction prior to 1982.)

- Spa pool- The pool user capacity of a spa pool shall be based on one pool user for every 10 square feet (0.929 m^2) of pool water surface area.
- Other pools- The pool user capacity for all other pools shall be based on one pool user for every 20 square feet (1.858 m^2) of pool water surface area.
- Exception: Pool user capacity requirements do not apply to wading pools or spray grounds.

NO DIVING SIGN- Signs shall be posted in conspicuous places and shall state, “NO DIVING.” The sign is required for swim pools:

- Approved for construction prior to September 1, 2012 and having a maximum depth of **less than 6 feet (< 6 feet).**
- Approved for construction after September 1, 2012 and having a maximum depth **6 feet or less (≤ 6 feet).**

NO LIFEGUARD SIGN- Where no lifeguard service is provided, a warning sign shall be posted stating, “WARNING: NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY.” The sign also shall state in letters at least **1 inch** (25 mm) high, "Children under the age of 14 shall not use pool without a parent or adult guardian in attendance.”

1241 E. DYER ROAD, SUITE 120, SANTA ANA, CA 92705-5611
Telephone: (714) 433-6000
www.ochealthinfo.com/eh/water/pool

ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATION AND CPR SIGN- An illustrated diagram with text at least ¼ **inch** (6 mm) high of artificial respiration and CPR procedures shall be posted.

EMERGENCY SIGN- The emergency telephone number 911, **the number of the nearest emergency services and the name and street address of the pool facility shall be posted.**

EMERGENCY EXIT SIGN- A gate or door must be clearly and conspicuously labeled "Emergency Exit." If all gates and doors are keyless exits, the sign is not required. (Not required for pools approved for construction prior to July 1 1994.)

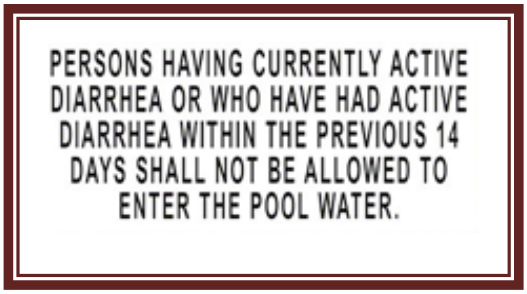
WARNING SIGN FOR A SPA POOL- A warning sign for spa pools shall be posted stating, "CAUTION" and shall include the following language in letters at least **1 inch** (25 mm) high:

1. Elderly persons, pregnant women, infants and those with health conditions requiring medical care should consult with a physician before entering the spa.
2. Unsupervised use by children under the age of 14 is prohibited.
3. Hot water immersion while under the influence of alcohol, narcotics, drugs or medicines may lead to serious consequences and is not recommended.
4. Do not use alone.
5. Long exposure may result in hyperthermia, nausea, dizziness or fainting.

NO USE AFTER DARK SIGN- Where pools were constructed for which lighting was not required or installed, a sign shall be posted at each pool entrance on the outside of the gate(s) stating, "NO USE OF POOL ALLOWED AFTER DARK."

EMERGENCY SHUT-OFF SIGN- In letters at least **1 inch** (25 mm) high a sign shall be posted at the spa emergency shut off switch stating, "EMERGENCY SHUT OFF SWITCH." (Not required for pools approved for construction prior to November 1, 1985.)

Public pool facilities approved for new construction on or after September 1, 2012, are required to provide the following signs in addition to all those noted above.

KEEP CLOSED SIGN- A sign shall be posted on the exterior side of gates and doors leading into the pool enclosure area stating, "KEEP CLOSED." Note: It is recommended the words GATE, DOOR, or ENTRY be included. For example, "KEEP *GATE* CLOSED".

DIARRHEA SIGN- A sign, in letters at least 1 inch (25 mm) high and in a language or diagram that is clearly stated, shall be posted at the entrance area of a public pool which states that persons having currently active diarrhea or who have had active diarrhea within the previous 14 days shall not be allowed to enter the pool water. For example.