RECOMMENDED RESPONSE TO VOMIT ACCIDENTS IN AQUATIC VENUES

The purpose of this document is to provide aquatic venue operators recommended procedures and guidelines to follow in the event of a vomit (when vomit contains more than regurgitate water) accident. The recommended procedures are applicable to all types of aquatic venues (i.e., swimming, wading, special use, and spas).

When vomit (containing more than regurgitated water) contamination of an aquatic venue occurs following actions are recommended:

1. Instruct aquatic venue management to have all users exit the aquatic venue. The aquatic venue is to be closed from use while the sanitizing procedures are being followed.

2. Remove all visible vomit material. **Vacuuming vomit from the aquatic venue is not recommended**. If an aquatic venue water-vacuuming device is used, the wasted water should discharge to the sewer, not back into the aquatic venue's recirculation system. Equipment used to remove visible fecal material is to be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to storage.

3. Raise the free available chlorine concentration to 2 ppm (mg/L) and maintain the pH at 7.5 or less for at least 25 minutes before reopening the aquatic venue. **Only non-stabilized chlorine should be used to achieve inactivation of pathogens associated with the vomit contamination. CDC has determined that stabilized chlorine is less ineffective in inactivation of pathogens. If your aquatic venue uses stabilized chlorine products (i.e. trichlor or dichlor) for normal disinfection you must have a non-stabilized chlorine product available to use for vomit accident pathogen inactivation.**

Dosages of non-stabilized chlorine compounds to treat 10,000 gallons of aquatic venue water

	1ppm	5 ppm	10 ppm
Calcium Hypochlorite(65%)	2 oz.	10 oz.	20 oz.
Lithium Hypochlorite(35%)	13 fl. oz.	½ gal	1 gal
Sodium Hypochlorite(10-12%)	4 oz.	20 oz.	40 oz.

The aquatic venue operator should be cautioned that the three chlorine compounds recommended in this procedure all have high pH's. Addition of these chemicals to the aquatic venue water will increase the pH. Chemical balancing of the water may be needed to maintain the optimal pH range of 7.2 – 7.6