



Water Transmission and COVID-19

March 12, 2020

Can the COVID-19 virus spread through pools and hot tubs?

There is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread to humans through the use of pools and hot tubs. Proper operation, maintenance, and disinfection (e.g., with chlorine and bromine) of pools and hot tubs should remove or inactivate the virus that causes COVID-19.

Is it still safe to go swimming at this time? Can the virus be transmitted through the pool water?

Public Health opinion is that it is generally safe to go swimming at this time. **Water and the chlorine within swimming pools will help to kill the virus.** Of concern, though, is the interaction that pool users have with each other beyond the swimming activity. **The novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation is evolving and characteristics of the virus are still being determined.**

For **everyone's safety**, PWTAG (*Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group*) is urging the management and owners of swimming pools to ensure they are executing the tasks below.

The Town of Perth meets all of these requirements:

- **Frequent, regular, testing** of the pool water for pH and disinfectant levels.
- That pH and disinfectant levels comply with Ontario Regulations 565
- And to **clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the pool environment**, ensuring a frequent and regular cleansing regime of all areas used by the public.

Users of swimming pools are directed to shower before entering the pool to remove impurities typically found on bodies, and to shower on leaving the pool. They also are directed to observe good public hygiene practices.

More information: PWTAG <https://www.pwtag.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-latest-information-2/>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/water.html>