What is cryptosporidiosis and how is it spread?

Cryptosporidia is a parasite that lives in the intestinal tract of humans and animals and is passed through stool. Cryptosporidium can be transmitted through swimming pools and lakes when swimmers swallow water that has been contaminated with stool from an infected person or animal.

Recommendations for Pool Operators:

- Encourage parents to provide regular bathroom breaks for their children.
- To prevent transmission of germs, ensure that the bathrooms are clean, that they are stocked with toilet paper, and that they have ample soap for hand washing.
- Have a written fecal accident response policy.
- Keep records of all fecal accidents, chlorine and pH level measurements.

Swimming pool facilities should post the following recommendations for patrons to promote healthy swimming behaviors:

- Take a shower before swimming and wash your child thoroughly (especially the rear end) with soap and water before swimming.
- Diapered children should wear appropriate diapers designed specifically for swimming.
- Change diapers in the bathroom, not at the poolside.
- Wash hands after using the toilet or changing diapers and before preparing and eating food.
- Don’t swim when you have diarrhea. Persons with diarrhea should wait 2 weeks after diarrhea stops to resume swimming.
- Avoid swallowing pool water.