

How to Keep Your School Swimming Pool Open Under New Department of Health Requirements

ATTN: All Principals and custodial staff of schools with a swimming pool

What's NEW: Recent changes in the health code concerning swimming pools require an “additional set of eyes” during classes, instructional and swim team activities. See 10 NYCRR section 6-1.23. An additional qualified person must be present at the pool for each regular supervisory staff who is providing instruction from inside the pool or from the pool deck in order to ensure pool safety for the other swimmers. The new rules require this additional person to at least be a certified *Supervisory Level IIIA* person. This is in addition to all applicable NYS Department of Health (NYS DOH), NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH) and NYC Department of Education regulations covering the use and operation of swimming pools.

Each school's written pool safety plan must describe the duties, positioning at pool side and interaction between the lifeguard/Aquatic Teacher and the Supervision Level IIIA staff which ensures adequate supervision and emergency response. These plans must be at pool side, updated as needed and be available upon request. This also applies when the pool is utilized by a third party (persons or entity renting the facility). Certification for all swim instructors and lifeguards provided by third party should be kept on file on site at all times.

What is a certified *Supervisory Level IIIA* person?

As per NYS Department of Health - 10 N.Y.C.R.R. Section 6-1.31(c) (2):

- Supervision Level III staff must possess certification in aquatic injury prevention and emergency response.
- As per NYC DOHMH, the Supervisory Level IIIA must be 16 years old or older
- A person with higher certification (e.g. Level II – Lifeguard) is also acceptable to fill the role as the additional person - in place of the Supervisory Level IIIA.
- In addition, persons with this or higher certification must possess a current American Red Cross Community Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or equivalent certification approved by The New York State Department of Health, with one year renewal requirement.
- This additional person(s) is required to remain pool side for each lifeguard or swimming teacher whenever the lifeguard/Aquatic Teacher (supervisory staff) is providing instruction.
- These rules must be followed at all times – during the school day, within before/after school activities, or when the facility is utilized by a third party entity.
- If a DOHMH inspection occurs and these rules are not in place the pool will be closed.

Who on my staff can provide this supervision?

Here are a few examples of possible persons who may already have this training or can be trained to receive Level III certification:

Another teacher, Parent, PA volunteer or School Aide [Note: all requirements for adults working with students --must be followed.]

A student who would meet the State Physical Education Standards 2.b & 3.c who is 16 years or older.

How can I provide a certified *Supervisory Level IIIA* person if my school does not have one now?

The American Red Cross of Greater NY provides Supervisory Level III certification:

- The American Red Cross Aquatics Office can be reached at 212-875-2213. Linda-Sue Sutherland is the Assistant Director of ARC Aquatics
- The certification course is about 7 hours.
- The entire course is held in a classroom.
- The cost to your school is \$85.00 per participant.
- All materials are included in this price.
- A certification class can be held with a minimum of 8 and maximum 32 attendees
- If you have any additional questions about how to arrange a class, please contact Dr. Bruce C. Davis within the DOE's Department of Fitness and Health Education at BDavis2@schools.nyc.gov.