

## GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF DIAPERS AT PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

The Anne Arundel County Department of Health does not regulate the use of swimming pools by non-toilet trained children. Individual facilities may enact rules regarding the use of their pools by babies and diapered toddlers. Use of a main pool by non-toilet trained children is discouraged, particularly if a wading pool is available.

When non-toilet trained children are allowed the use of any pool, the following guidelines apply:

1. A clean, close-fitting diaper with a plastic outer covering that has elastic at the waist and leg openings is recommended. Disposable or reusable swim diapers are suitable. Diaper changing stations are recommended in men's and women's restroom facilities and diaper changing should be done at these stations. Caregivers are expected to wash their hands with soap and warm water after each diaper change.

NOTE: Swim diapers, or diapers of any kind, do not prevent fecal bacteria from entering the pool water. Maintenance of the proper chlorine residual in the pool at all times is essential.

2. A bathing suit is recommended over the diaper. This is mainly for extra protection against leakage in the event of a bowel movement.
3. The child should be closely supervised by a parent or caregiver and the diaper should be checked frequently.
4. No person with a known case of diarrhea is to use any public pool.
5. If feces escape the diaper and enter the pool water, or in the event fecal contamination from any source occurs, the pool operator is required to clear the pool of swimmers and follow the Fecal Contamination Policy ([attached](#)) from the Maryland Department of Health. NOTE that solid stool and diarrhea incidents require different procedures and closure times.

If you have any questions, please call the Pool Program Specialist,  
Bureau of Environmental Health, at (410) 222-7217 or visit [www.aahealth.org](http://www.aahealth.org).