



Why Swimming pool and spa water maintenance is an essential service:

1. According to the CDC, there is no indication that the coronavirus can survive in a properly maintained and chlorinated/brominated swimming pool or spa.
2. On March 19, 2020 Governor Newsome issued Executive Order N-33-20 directing all residents to stay at home except as needed to maintain essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of all Californians. These guidelines mirror the below referenced Cyber and Infrastructure Security Administration/Homeland Security Administration recommendations.
3. The Cyber and Infrastructure Security Administration (CISA), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidance document states that: **“workers such as plumbers, electricians, exterminators and other service providers that provide services that are necessary to maintain safety sanitation and essential operation of residences.”** This would include swimming pool and spa maintenance personnel. Please note that this sentence explicitly calls out “exterminators.” Chlorine in CA is regulated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). What do “exterminators” use? Pesticides. What do pool maintenance firms use? Chlorine, a product regulated by the DPR.
4. Title 22 in the California Code requires commercial pools to have their water tested daily to ensure that proper water chemistry and chlorine/bromine levels are maintained.
5. Swimming pool and spa water not properly maintained with proper chlorine/bromine levels will allow the coronavirus to live. Other waterborne illnesses/recreational water illnesses (RWIs) will grow in these unsanitary waters. They include Pseudomonas, E Coli, Shigella, Cryptosporidium, Legionella and many others.
6. If pool and spa chemistry and proper chlorine/bromine levels are not properly maintained, these waters will turn cloudy and eventually green algae will consume the pools. If a distressed swimmer or child goes under with water in these conditions, they may go unnoticed and drowning becomes a more likely outcome.
7. Once a pool or spa turns green, they become a breeding ground for mosquitos. Mosquitos are known to transmit West Nile Virus and Malaria.

We cannot afford to have swimming pools and spas, commercial or residential, left without the water chemistry and chlorine/bromine being properly maintained. It is literally a matter of public health. If these pools are not properly maintained, swimmers will be subject to the above referenced scenarios.