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To: Comments, BCC Agenda

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Topic Opening of Swimming Pools

BCC
Agenda 5-1-2020
Date

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the Issue

SOME REASONS I DO NOT THINK IT IS WISE TO OPEN SWIMMING POOLS NOW I am a Masters doing a swimming-pool workout two or three times per week. Viral transmission thru public swimming pools to be mainly via a fecal-oral route. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6352248/?fbclid=IwARpb8Q3dCJeQs20HGkpkKg> (full text) Abstract follows:

Int J Environ Res Public Health. 2019 Jan; 16(2): 166. Published online 2019 Jan 9. doi: 10.3390/ijerph16020166
Diseases Associated with Swimming Pools Lucia Bonadonna* and Giuseppina La Rosa* Abstract Infectious diseases associated with swimming pools, such as bacterial, viral, and fungal infections, molds, may threaten the health of swimming pool bathers. Viruses are a major cause of recreationally-associated illnesses in swimming pools, hot tubs, thermal pools/spas, rivers, and hot springs. They can make their way into waters through the accidental release of feces, urine, or sweat by symptomatic or asymptomatic carriers. We present an updated overview of epidemiological data on viral infections in swimming pools, by the availability of improved viral detection methodologies. Special attention is paid to outbreak investigations (e.g., norovirus, adenovirus, and hepatitis A virus transmission, chlorination/disinfection). Epidemiological studies on incidents of viral contamination of swimming pools are reviewed.

Comments

RNA and proteins from SARS-CoV-2, the viral cause of COVID-19, have been detected in feces, even after conventional testing (not testing feces) gives a negative result. It is now considered possible that the coronavirus can survive in pool water. <https://www.medicinenet.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=229095> After searching the US National Library of Medicine, I found no reports or data on either the testing for SARS-CoV-2 in swimming pool type water or in actual swimming pool water. The virus is thought to be deactivated quickly in properly treated pool water, pool water is not necessarily properly treated. The virus is encased in body fluids so that it will not be deactivated. Pools require swimmers to shower before entering pools. Showering would prevent some organics from being shed by swimmers in pools. While swimming in pools, the virus can survive on the surface in pools—some pools much worse than others. Mucus can protect a virus from direct contact with pool water. Swimmers breathe through their mouths and exhale under the water thru their noses, which will expel mucus. Non-swimmers often get water in their eyes. Swimmers also spit mucus into the pool gutters where there might be little or no contact with pool-water chemicals. Pool gutters can serve as additional sites for transmission of the virus. People tend to crowd in locker rooms with wet suits, towels, and shower (after, but seldom before, swimming). Relatively few people have been tested for the virus. Many people harbor the virus and shed it through their oral excretions and possibly also thru their feces. Allowing 50% of people to enter pools seem to me to be totally arbitrary non-science based requirements. I think it would be unfair and very dangerous to allow people who may be called upon to come into close contact with swimmers and their secretions, to work in pool and

time, I think pools that have roped off swimming lanes could allow for use by one swimmer per lane, in which people who have tested negative for COVID-19 should be allowed to swim (keeping in mind that tests are for people not carrying the virus). Thank you for your consideration of these matters, Patricia Patterson

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