

## BEACH FACILITIES

### Facility Beaches and Responsibilities

If you are a municipal official or commercial facility owner who wants to provide bathing beach facilities to the public, you must contact the Clinton County Health Department's Environmental Health Unit prior to building, repairing or renovating your bathing facility(s).

Subpart 6-2 outlines your responsibilities to ensure your bathing beach patrons have a sanitary and safe beach outing. Clinton County Health Department is your partner in reducing your liability from bather illness, injury and deaths. We work with you to insure that your bathing beach meets all the required codes. The below sections should assist you in your responsibilities.

### How to Get a Permit to Operate

Public bathing beaches, commercial or public, must be permitted. All facilities are required to apply for a permit at least 30 days before the opening of any bathing beach.

### New or Renovated Bathing Beaches (Construction)

All prospective owners or operators of a purposed bathing beach, or all owners or operators wishing to renovate or modify their beach, buildings, and appurtenances must complete a Notice of Intent and send the notice to Clinton County Health Department.

The Department will notify you whether or not plans are needed. If plans are needed, the Clinton County Health Department will require you to contact a New York State licensed engineer or architect to design your plans.

You will be sent a DOH-3236 form entitled Engineering Report for Bathing Beaches which your engineer or architect must complete and return to this Department with the required fee, engineer's report, and engineer or architect plans. Our engineer will review your plans for this Department's approval or will notify you for the need of additional information.

## Operator Responsibility

The operator of a bathing beach is responsible for:

- Sample collection and analysis of bathing water waters and assuring safe water quality;
- Controlling the decorum and activities at the bathing site;
- Supplying adequate supervisory personnel;
- Reporting injuries, deaths and communicable disease; and
- Maintaining physical facilities.

## Bathing Beach Safety Plans

All bathing facilities must update their bathing beach safety plan at least once every two years or when there is a change affecting the bathing beach safety plan.

The safety plans covers many items such as chain of command structure, who is responsible for what items at the beach, the procedures to contact emergency medical assistance or the police, outlines lifeguard supervision, how your lifeguard(s) interacts with the bathers and other lifeguards, describes the facility's missing person search procedure, what signage is up, patron decorum, opening and closing procedures, etc.

This safety plan is your facility's most important tool concerning insurance of bather safety and beach operation. It is expected that your safety plan is accurate and is what really happens at your bathing beach.

## Daily Operation Reports

The bathing beach operator must maintain daily records on DOH-2287 entitled Daily Report on Beach Operation For month of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_\_. This form must be completed appropriately.

## Medical Reporting Requirements

All bathing beach operators are required to make a full report to the Clinton County Health Department for any injury or illness incident occurring at a bathing beach within 24 hours of the incident and be recorded in the facility's injury/illness logbook. The following incidents must be report to us:

- Deaths;
- Incident requiring resuscitation;
- Referral to a hospital or other facility for medical attention;
- Bather illness associated with bathing water quality

## Public Health Hazards

Your bathing beach must be operated so there are no public health hazards. The following are items are public health hazards which the Clinton County Health Department must order to be immediately corrected or to immediately institute action as provided in the law and Subpart 6-2:

- Failure to provide adequate supervision at the beach as prescribed in section 6-2.17;
- Overhead electrical wires within 20 feet horizontally of the bathing beach;
- Failure to provide all lifesaving equipment at the beach;
- Use of unapproved or contaminated water supply sources for potable water use;
- Failure to meet water quality standards contained in section 6-2.15;
- The existence of sewage and waste-water discharges in the bathing area;
- Failure to properly delineate swimming area boundaries;
- Failure to provide signs indicating swimming is prohibited when the bathing beach is closed or unsupervised; and
- Any other condition determined to be a public health hazard by the permit-issuing official.

## Supervision Personnel

Clinton County Health Department requires all municipal beaches to have Supervision Level IIb (Beach/Pool certified lifeguard) as described in section 6-2.17 of Subpart 6-2. Temporary residences may use Supervision Level IIb, III (Responsible person 18 years or older), and IV (Temporary Residence Grandparenting Provision) as described in section 6-2.17 of Subpart 6-2.

## Bathing Beach Water Quality Monitoring Requirements

All bathing beaches must meet the following water quality monitoring requirements in section 6-2.15:

- Bacteriological;
- The water shall be free of chemical substances capable of creating toxic reactions, skin or membrane irritations to the general public;
- The water is free of deposits, growths, oils, greases, or other substances in the water capable of creating a health or safety hazard;
- Algae and aquatic vegetation shall be controlled so no hazard to bathers will result. Any chemical used to control vegetation and algae shall not be capable of creating toxic reactions, skin or membrane irritations when the beach is in operation. Any chemical being used must be approved and permitted by NYSDEC before being used.

## Contact Us

To receive more information or assistance about public beaches, call or visit us at:

Clinton County Health Department  
Environmental Unit  
135 Margaret Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
Tel: (518) 565-4870