| **General Information:** | |
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| **Topic:** | **Response/Resource** |
| 1. How does the Regulation change impact on the school swimming pool, spa pool or interactive water feature? | In line with the changes to the [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (Vic)](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/public-health-and-wellbeing-regulations-2019/009) principals are responsible for ensuring that the following processes are implemented:   * Register the swimming pool, spa pool or interactive water features, including the completion and implementation of a Water Quality Risk Management Plan prior to operating the facility * Manage the risks to human health arising from pathogenic microorganisms in the water in the aquatic facility in accordance with the regulations and the Water Quality Guidelines. * Ensure adequate training and competency of aquatic facility operators * Ensure manual daily key pool water parameter checks are undertaken before the pool opens and operational checks every four hours, and to close the pool if the key pool water parameters are not met * Ensure that periodic verification and monitoring of the microbiological quality of water at the aquatic facility is undertaken and take action where the required parameters are not met * keep records of testing for 12 months from the date the record was made. |
| 1. What is an Interactive Water Feature? | An interactive water feature means any of the following:   1. a water slide and its associated receiving pool that uses recirculating water 2. a wave pool or water play park that uses recirculating water 3. any other artificially constructed water play feature where recirculating water may be inhaled or swallowed by a person or come into contact with a person's skin or mucous membranes. |
| 1. Where do I access the Registration Form? | Each council differs with how they register an aquatic facility. Please contact your local council directly to determine how you register your pool with them. |
| 1. How much is the pool registration and who pays for the Pool Registration? | Most councils are charging a fee of $79, however some councils may differ slightly.  Schools are required to pay for their registration fees.  NOTE: some local Councils are offering free registration on existing aquatic facilities if you register before 31 December 2021. |
| 1. What happens if I don’t register the pool with council? | As of 14 December 2020, category 1 (i.e., any swimming pool, spa pool or interactive water feature) aquatic facilities need to be registered with local councils (they are now a prescribed business for the purposes of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act).  If you don’t register your aquatic facility with local council, there are compliance implications under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (i.e., substantial penalties). |
| 1. What is a Water Quality Risk Management Plan? | A Water Quality Risk Management Plan includes:   * + staff roles and responsibilities, competencies and training requirements   + a description of the facility, its source water, and its treatment systems   + water quality targets and treatment objectives   + hazard identification, risk assessment and control measures   + operational and verification monitoring   + incident management and response procedures * data recording and reporting. |
| 1. Where can I download the Water Quality Risk Management Plan Template? | The recommended template for use is available on Department of Health website: [Aquatic facilities (health.vic.gov.au)](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/water/developing-a-water-quality-risk-management-plan-for-public-aquatic-facilities) |
| 1. Is there support in developing the Water Quality Risk Management Plan? | Yes, there is support to help with completing the Water Quality Risk Management Plan template.  Please contact the OHS Advisory Service: 1300 074 715 [safety@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:safety@education.vic.gov.au) |
| 1. When do I have to complete the Water Quality Risk Management Plan by? | The [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (Vic)](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/statutory-rules/public-health-and-wellbeing-regulations-2019/009) were updated in late 2020. **The Department is requesting all schools to register their aquatic facilities prior to operating them in 2021 and beyond.** |
| 1. What if our school is currently using our aquatic facility and it isn’t registered? | If your school has not yet registered the aquatic facility, it is highly recommended that you do not operate the facility for the below reasons.  If you don’t register your aquatic facility with local council, there are compliance implications under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act (i.e., substantial penalties). |
| 1. How do I check if our school pool is registered? | By contacting your local council |
| 1. How long will it take to register the aquatic facility? | Please check in with your local council for current approval times. |
| 1. Do I only have to register the pool once? | This again will depend on how your local council conducts the registration process and the type of facility operated on your school grounds. |
| 1. How do I ensure that I manage this OHS risk in an ongoing way? | You can add management of aquatic facilities to your school’s OHS risk register. The risk register is designed to ensure you successfully manage this and other health and safety risks in an effective and ongoing way. To assist with this please contact the [OHS Advisory Service](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/occupational-health-and-safety-management-system-ohsms/guidance/useful-contacts-schools). |