

## Pool Water Information

Recent media reports regarding pool water quality in public pools and specifically, Cryptosporidium (Crypto) in public pools has highlighted the issue in regards to the pool at the UNSW Fitness and Aquatic Centre. Safety of patrons and staff is our highest priority and as such, we regularly test the pool water for both chemical levels and other pathogens such as certain forms of bacteria as required by the NSW Department of Health.

Every 3 hours, the pool water is tested to measure chlorine levels and pH and we test monthly for certain (common) pathogens found in public swimming pools to ensure we meet the current guidelines for safe pool operations. Testing for Crypto is not a requirement of NSW Department of Health but as a precautionary measure, we test for Crypto on a 6 month basis or more often when a reported outbreak occurs. Another control method utilised as recommended by the NSW Department of Health is to Superchlorinate the pool on a fortnightly basis which is currently occurring. Superchlorination is where we increase the chlorine content of the pool to over 10ppm (parts per million) which is a minimum of 5 times more than the normal chlorine content for 8 hours (we do this overnight). This Superchlorination assists in removing these parasites from the water.

Patrons can assist in minimising the occurrence of a Crypto outbreak by preventing its introduction to the pool in the first place as prevention is easier than the cure through some simple measures. The most common cause of introducing Crypto (and other pathogens as well) to a pool is through faecal accidents. For you and your child, please adhere to the following advice:

- Do not use this pool if you have had diarrhea in the past week.
- Before entering the pool, use the toilet and then shower (using soap).
- All swimmers should wear a swimming costume and non-toilet trained children should wear waterproof tight-fitting pants over swimmers.
- Avoid swallowing or putting pool water in your mouth.

If an accident does occur, please inform staff as soon as possible.

UNSW Sport and Recreation would like to thank you in your efforts to reduce the risk of a Crypto outbreak by adhering to these simple measures. For further information regarding water testing, please refer to the NSW Department of Health links below:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2004/poolguidelines.html>

and

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2004/cryptopools.html>

**Gregory Crawford**  
**Operations Manager**