

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Acting Commissioner



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### DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BRANCH

EHS Circular Letter #2021-46

**TO:** Directors of Health  
Chief Sanitarians

**FROM:** Lori J. Mathieu   
Branch Chief, Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

**DATE:** June 28, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Renting of Private Pools

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It has come to the attention of the Department of Public Health (DPH), Recreation Program that individual property owners may be renting out their private pools for use. This is being done through swimming pool sharing sites, like Swimply and Swimmy, which allow guests to book pools in an area of their choice and be charged an hourly or daily fee for use of the pool. These platforms connect prospective pool renters to pool owners who have posted their swimming pools online for guests to rent this summer.

The Connecticut General Statute Section 19a-36(c) defines a "public pool" as "*an artificial basin constructed of concrete, steel, fiberglass or other impervious material and equipped with a controlled water supply that is intended for recreational bathing, swimming, diving or therapeutic purposes and includes, but is not limited to, any related equipment, structure, area or enclosure intended for the use of any person using or staffing such pool. "Public pool" does not include an artificial basin provided with a controlled water supply that is intended for use at a single-family residence, except when such basin is used for commercial or business purposes at such residence.*"

Therefore by statutory definition, a private pool that is used for business purposes, such as being rented out, is a public pool and must in turn comply with the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA), Section 19-13-B33b. The RCSA, Section 19-13-B33b(b)(1) requires that all public pools be approved by the DPH. To be approved as a public pool by the DPH, the pool must be constructed in accordance with the Connecticut Public Swimming Pool Design Guide.

The Director of Health has the authority under the RCSA, Section 19-13-B33b(g) to close a public pool if the pool does not meet the requirements of the RCSA, Section 19-13-B33b. Therefore if you become aware of a private pool operating as a "public pool", that has not first obtained approval from the DPH to



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operate as a public pool, you have the authority to close such private pool for any uses that would deem the private pool a “public pool”.

The only exemption is if the pool belongs to an Airbnb, or other private house rental. In that case the parties are renting the house and its amenities, and the pool is just part of the rental property. Please see DPH Circular Letter #2015-40 that was issued back on October 6, 2015.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Recreation Program at (860) 509-7334.

c: Heather Aaron, MPH, LNHA, Deputy Commissioner, DPH  
Jim Vannoy, MPH, Section Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH