



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

*The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique*

LIFESAVING SOCIETY MANITOBA

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Information Bulletin – Update: Using Backyard Pools for Teaching Swimming

June 15, 2020

Dear Members and Supporters,

Since the release of our previous Information Bulletin on June 1, 2020 we have received further clarification from Manitoba Public Health about teaching swimming lessons in backyard pools.

In response to our queries it was confirmed:

“There has been no regulatory change regarding offering swimming lessons in backyard pools. There is nothing in the Regulations that restricts private swimming lessons, offered in backyard pools to the residents of that home. A private residence can not open their backyard pool to offer swimming lessons to the public – that would include, an instructor having a backyard pool or an owner of a backyard pool offering to have neighbourhood children take lessons in their backyard pool.

The bulletin provided by The Lifesaving Society, is correct in that, if an instructor wishes to operate lessons out of their own backyard, or utilize a backyard pool where the public attends (not just the members of the household); the owner of that property / pool will require a permit and would require to be in compliance with the Regulations.”

Further,

*“Teaching swim lessons to siblings within the same household is a situation that is a family activity, and would not be considered a group activity. Therefore, these types of swim lessons would be considered private lessons, and not group activities to members of the general public. Similarly, attending at someone’s residence for the purpose of teaching swimming lessons in the back yard pool to members of that household **only** would also not be regulated under the Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation (MR 132/97) , and would not require permits either.*

However, businesses that are beginning to operate as swimming instruction facilities in residential pools for the purpose of teaching swim lessons to groups of individuals at a time would be considered public swim classes, and must be taught in a permitted pool. Permitted pools must hold a valid Health Permit issued by a Public Health Inspector. The

intention of the Regulation is to ensure that any pool allowing use to the public meets the minimum standards to ensure the health and safety of individuals attending each facility.

From the perspective of liability etc. operators should consider home owner insurance coverage and approval from the local authority having jurisdiction to ensure all other codes and by-laws are complied with.”

If you have further questions about this policy, please contact Lifesaving Society Manitoba or your local Public Health Inspector.

Kathy Plett
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