Before you can declare your pool open, a few requirements will have to be met:

1. Remember to check drain cover grasps first thing after removing your pool cover. Cracked, broken, or missing drain covers present hair/body entrapment and evisceration/disembowelment hazards. All drain covers should be VGB compliant.

2. A license application must be completed and submitted to the Environmental Division of the health Department, along with the corresponding fee.

3. All pools must have a separate person in charge (PIC) registered with our office and on site to maintain your pool. If your PIC is no longer employed at your facility, a new one must arrange to take and pass our general knowledge test.

4. Documentation of passing pool water bacteriological test results must be submitted. Water testing must commence at least one week prior to your anticipated opening date.

5. Finally, passage of a pre-scheduled opening inspection is required. Make sure all violations are corrected and verified as being corrected by an Environmentalist.

By Jennifer Montiel
Cryptosporidiosis (Crypto) is a diarrheal disease most commonly transmitted through water. Crypto may survive for long periods of time outside of the body due to a hard outer shell which makes the parasite resistant to chlorine and bromine disinfectant in pools and spas. Ingesting as few as 10 crypto organisms may cause illness. Taking steps to prevent crypto is the most successful way to reduce the number of crypto outbreaks.

As a pool operator, you may want to ask yourself the following questions to ensure that your facility is ready to prevent a crypto outbreak:

- Are your restrooms conveniently located and maintained clean to encourage patron usage? If you would not want to walk barefoot into your restroom, patrons will not either.

- What healthy swimming practices do you have in place? Try clearing the pool for regular bathroom breaks; this is also a great time for lifeguards to take surveillance of the bathers and the pool.

- Does your staff enforce all pool sanitation rules? Do you have dry bodies entering your pool? Ensure that patrons are showering prior to pool entry.

While crypto parasites are resistant to disinfectants in pools, new technologies have been shown to reduce the bacteria by up to 99%. Ultraviolet (UV) light, ozone, and DE filters are among these new technologies. When pool water is exposed to UV light and a chemical oxidizer, bacteria such as crypto are destroyed. Ozone systems inject ozone as a gas compound into the filtered pool water with another chemical to help decompose organic materials. DE filters have been used in pools for some time but are making a comeback due to their success with crypto. These filters are a more effective method of removing crypto because the filters remove smaller particulate matter, keeping the water cleaner. These technologies are becoming more widespread in the fight against crypto in public pools. With warmer weather approaching, keep in mind that prevention is the most effective method to stop a crypto outbreak before it starts at your facility.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the six practice in order to help prevent crypto outbreaks:

- Diarrhea. Patrons whom have had diarrhea within the last two weeks may not use the pool/spa. This is extremely important for kids in diapers.

- Water. Spliting and sprouting of pool/spa water is prohibited.

- Lease practice good hygiene. Patrons must shower before entering the pool/spa and after using the restroom. Ensure patrons wash their hands after using the restroom or changing diapers.

- Lease take children for bathroom breaks and check diapers often.

- Lease change diapers in a bathroom and not at poolside. Germs may spread to surfaces and be tracked into the pool/spa.

- Lease wash your child thoroughly with soap and warm water before swimming.