

Manager Feedback on the application of Covid-19 swimming pool regulations

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She has organized training seminars as an appointed expert by the WHO in many countries in the world. She has organized national and international workshops and conferences on water quality and public health issues, among others the "7th International Pool & Spa Conference" (Kos Island, May 2017). She pioneered Legionella laboratory methods and related building surveillance in Greece. She published about 80 peer reviewed scientific papers. As a WHO expert and writer she contributed to the WHO *Guidelines on safe recreational water environments, vol II:*

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Presentation Abstract

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Greek sanitary regulations have undergone some amendments. In summer 2020, two new regulations, one regarding public pools and one for pools related to tourism, were introduced. Since then, some pools stayed open applying the new regulations while others were closed and often remained filled with stagnant water, which enhanced proliferation of mosquitoes.

While regulations need to be full and clear, they can only be effective if they are feasible and affordable for the pool management and not too complicated for pool users. In an effort to identify weaknesses in the applicability of the regulations we formulated an electronic feedback questionnaire addressed to pool managers scattered randomly across

selected areas of the country. An introductory note provides information on the scope of the questionnaire and certifies confidentiality. The questionnaire includes general information about the type of establishment running the pool(s), and the number of the pools – if more than one – remaining in function during the pandemic. Thereafter questions seek information and opinions on COVID-19 related procedures, such as: staff training; cleaning and disinfection of the pool and the facilities; water laboratory controls; measures ensuring physical distancing of users; the use of masks; and users' personal hygiene.

This work is still in progress and, accordingly, once the feedback has been gathered and assessed, we intend to propose alterations to the regulations. We will also attempt to examine the impact of the closed but water-filled pools on public health in the areas in question.