

National Guidelines and health issues on the swimming pool during Covid-19 pandemic: the Italian experience

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He is the national expert for the European Commission in the WG Chemicals and in the WG Groundwater (DG Environment), in CE-TAIEX events and several Twinning Projects (DG Enlargement for Short Term Assistance projects).

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He is an expert in fatal and non-fatal drowning and chemical risk assessment in recreational waters. He is also in charge of the legislative aspects of swimming pools in Italy on behalf of

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Director of the Department of Environment and Health at the Italian National Institute of Health. She carries out research activities on microbiological aspects of several environmental matrixes, in particular on the hygienic quality evaluation of drinking water, wastewater, fresh and sea water, air, biological risk factors, and on development of analytical methodologies for the determination of biological contaminants. Part of her activities also takes up evaluation support and technical-scientific advice to central and regional public institutions: she collaborates with the Ministries of Health and of Environment in preparing and implementing health planning and codes. She is the Italian representative in the



European Group Microbiology Expert Group (EMEG) of the European Commission for waters. She is responsible for national and international projects. She makes training courses and teaches in courses organized at the National Institute of Health for expert in the field. She carries out controls and advice on behalf of the ISS, which include interventions for the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Regions and Municipalities. She works on legislative and technical-scientific aspects of swimming facilities since 1990 and is member of the Scientific Committee of the International Conference on Swimming Pool and SPA since 2013. She is author of over 300 publications on Italian and international journals and presentations at conferences.

Presentation Abstract

On 9 March 2020, the quarantine measures to cope with the Covid-19 pandemic imposed a shutdown of all the Italian swimming pools.

Three months ago, the Annex 17 of the Prime Ministerial Decree of 17 May 2020 reported several risk mitigation recommendations for the reopening of swimming pools. Pools for special care, rehabilitation and thermal uses, and those supplied with seawater were excluded.

The Italian National Institute of Health together with the Italian Ministry of Health and other stakeholders developed the Italian Guidelines on swimming pools in relation to the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

This document is addressed to the regional health and environmental authorities and local institutions to provide specific technical indications on the risk analysis related to sport and recreational activities in swimming facilities, water parks and similar facilities in the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Specific risk mitigation recommendations are provided in relation to:

- a) environmental contamination control, implemented by the relevant environmental and health authorities;
- b) hygiene and behavioural rules to be followed by the managers and bathers of swimming facilities.

In particular, several control measures are reported, including new crowding limits, optimized water treatments, airflow and microclimatic parameters in the pool as well in the annexed rooms. Other control measures were foreseen for aquaparks, restriction for «condominium/ shared» swimming pool.

At the end of October, in order to avoid aggregation conditions swimming pools, gyms and leisure centres were again forced to close due to the Covid-19 second wave hitting Italy.