

National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS): Treated and Untreated Recreational Water

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1 INTRODUCTION

This training session will provide an overview on how to complete the Treated and Untreated Recreational Water tabs. This training assumes that you have watched the Login and Main Features training, the General section training, and the Water-General training. This session will review four tabs: Water-Rec Treated, Water-Rec Treated Contributing Factors, Water - Untreated and Water- Untreated Contributing Factors. Please see the Water Sample Laboratory Data training to learn how to complete the Water-Rec Treated Lab and Water-Untreated Lab tabs, as well as the laboratory tabs for drinking water and water that is either not intended for drinking or without a known intent for use.

2 WATER – REC. TREATED TAB

We will start on the Water-Rec. Treated tab. Let’s enter data about an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis following a wedding. We need to describe the venue, which was a pool at a hotel, and provide information related to the venue’s water quality.

The Recreational Water Vehicle Description section describes the water that was the vehicle for disease transmission. Three separate tables are linked by a field called Water Vehicle Number. Descriptive information about a water venue can be entered once in the first table, labeled Water Type, and referenced repeatedly in the second and third tables—labeled Treatment Type and Fill Water Type, respectively.

Let’s click on ‘Add Water Type’ and enter ‘1’ for the Water Vehicle Number. We want to select ‘pool- swimming pool’ for the Water Type and ‘indoor’ for the Water Subtype. Note that in the ‘Setting of Exposure’ pick list, several similar settings are combined. In this case, hotel isn’t listed but ‘hotel/motel/lodge/inn’ is listed, so instead of adding ‘hotel’ to the list, we want to select the combined list value as the setting of exposure and then click ‘Save’. If there were more water venues to report, we could repeat this process for each venue.

Next, we want to summarize the usual water treatment methods for the pool using one or more rows of data. Let’s say that disinfection was the only method used. We will click ‘Add Treatment’ to enter data into the Treatment Type table. Since we’ve already entered a row of data in the Water Type table with a Water Vehicle Number of ‘1’, we see ‘1’ in the drop-down field here for Water Vehicle Number. By selecting it, we can link the treatment type data to the data in the first table. ‘Usual Water Treatment’ will be ‘disinfection’. Enter the usual water treatments

regardless of whether or not these treatments were operating correctly at or just prior to the time of the outbreak.

The next field, Venue Treatment Subtype, is only used if disinfection or filtration treatments are reported. Let's report that the disinfection subtype as 'chlorine'. Chlorination Subtype can be filled in if the venue treatment subtype was 'Chlorine'. Here, let's say that we know that the chlorination subtype for the pool was 'Gaseous'. Once we click 'Save', we can add new rows, if necessary.

Table 3 describes the fill water at a venue. First, let's click 'Add Fill Water Type'. The Water Vehicle Number will again be '1'. Let's enter 'Public water supply' as the Fill Water Type. The last two fields are only completed for fill water from public water supplies. We will select 'filtration' as Usual Water Treatment provided before the water reached the pool. Enter any usual water treatments regardless of whether or not these treatments were operating correctly at or just prior to the time of the outbreak. If 'filtration' or 'disinfection' is the usual water treatment, the 'Fill Water Treatment Subtype' should be completed. We will select 'unknown' here and click 'Save'. We would simply add data rows if we needed to report more information.

Next, let's go to the Recreational Water Quality section. The first question asks whether the venue met state or local recreational water quality regulations. We will click on the radio button for 'No' and write "Pool operator did not maintain a water quality log". Text entered in the text box below the question will not be saved unless you answer 'No' – please do not answer 'no' to add comments if the correct answer is 'yes', 'unknown' or 'not applicable'

The second question asks if there was a pool operator on the payroll who had state-approved training or certification. In this scenario, the answer will be 'No' and there is no text box.

Next, click on the Water-Recreational Treated Contributing Factors tab.

3 WATER – REC. TR. CON. FAC. TAB

This tab is used to report Contributing Factors for the outbreak. Factors can be labeled as either confirmed or documented factors, or as suspected factors. Please only report factors that you know or suspect contributed to the outbreak. If there is other information that you would like to report, please write it in the remarks or upload it as an attachment to the report instead.

Several common contributing factors are already listed, loosely organized into five categories: People, Facility Design, Maintenance, Policy and Management, and Other/Unknown; however, factors that you add will not be sorted into these categories. To report a factor, click on 'Add Factor' and select the factor. Select the radio button for either documented or suspected. Although there is currently an option to list the factor as 'neither', please do not use it.

Let's assume that a child with a diarrheal illness swam in the pool at the start of the exposure period but no daily pool log was maintained and verbal accounts were only speculative regarding a fecal accident. We will add 'Fecal/vomitus accident', as a suspected factor and click 'Save'. Since we're reporting about cryptosporidiosis, let's also add 'No supplemental disinfection installed that would have inactivated the pathogen' as a documented factor, since the outbreak investigation found that the only pool treatment was chlorine, and *Cryptosporidium* is chlorine-resistant.

Finally, we can use the Remarks field to enter up to 1500 characters of text about the outbreak.

Remember to click 'Save Changes' or navigate to another tab before logging out.

4 WATER – UNTREATED TAB

Let's open an existing report about untreated recreational water to enter data about an outbreak of gastroenteritis associated with swimming in a lake at a state park. We need to describe where the exposure occurred in the Recreational Water Vehicle Description table and then provide information related to water quality.

We will click 'Add Vehicles' and report that the water implicated in the outbreak was a lake by selecting 'Lake/Reservoir/Impoundment' from the alphabetical pick list for 'Water Type'. We can skip the 'Water Subtype' field because we are not reporting about a spring or hot spring. Had the exposure been associated with either of these water types, we would have selected 'indoor', 'outdoor' or 'unknown' as the subtype. The 'Setting of Exposure' should be reported as 'Park – State Park'.

Click 'Save and let's go to the Recreational Water Quality section. The first question asks whether the venue met state or local recreational water quality regulations. We will click on the radio button for 'No', which will prompt a text box to appear below. Let's type in "Fecal coliform levels exceeded state regulations prior to and following the exposure period."

The second question asks if the venue met EPA's recreational water quality standards. Let's again answer 'no' and enter in the text box that "The water tested positive for fecal coliforms at levels above EPA standards."

5 WATER – UNTRE. CON. FAC. TAB

Next, click on the Contributing Factors tab and complete it as we did for the previous contributing factors section.

This is the end of the training. Please remember to watch the training for Water Sample Laboratory Data before completing a recreational water report.