



## **Don't Let Safety Slip: What Cabarrus Health Alliance Looks for at Public Pool Inspections**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Kannapolis, N.C. - Cabarrus Health Alliance, June 24, 2025** - Whether you are a resident or a visitor to Cabarrus County, Cabarrus Health Alliance (CHA) works diligently to ensure the safety of all individuals at permitted swimming pools. CHA is responsible for inspecting all public pools in Cabarrus County in accordance with the NC Swimming Pool Rules. Public pools include those at apartment complexes, Home Owner Associations (HOAs)/neighborhoods, hotels, swim clubs, YMCAs, water parks, and country clubs. Private, “backyard” pools are not inspected by CHA.

CHA inspects 200 public swimming pools across the county. Of those, 45 pools operate year-round and are inspected twice annually, while the remaining 155 are seasonal and receive at least one inspection during the summer swim season.

“I have served as the Public Swimming Pool Program Supervisor at CHA since December 2023,” shared Eric Kepf. “However, I have been inspecting pools for over 20 years across multiple states. I am passionate about this work because every inspection has the potential to prevent an injury—or even save a life.”

Inspections are critical to preventing illness and injury, involving checks on water quality, safety equipment, emergency phones, and the integrity of fences and gates. Inspectors also evaluate drain covers, ladders, handrails, pool steps, decks, skimmers, restrooms, signage, lighting, and all equipment within the pump room. There are a number of issues that can arise during an inspection. Public pools rely on various mechanical and safety systems, any of which can break down. Fence or gate damage is common, and even weather—especially heavy rain—can quickly affect water quality.

“One of the most critical parts of every inspection is the drain cover,” shared Environmental Health Director, Jennifer Hatley. “Improperly installed, damaged, or missing drain covers can cause suction-related injuries or drowning.” If you ever notice a drain cover that appears damaged or missing, immediately notify the Certified Pool Operator (CPO) or contact Cabarrus Health Alliance.

### **As you and your loved ones enjoy the pool this summer, please remember:**

- Be patient if a pool temporarily closes. Closures often occur to protect swimmer health, address safety concerns, and/or allow time for necessary maintenance.
- Know who the Certified Pool Operator (CPO) is at your pool. The CPO is required to check and verify/sign-off on the pool chemical/maintenance logs daily to make sure the pool is operating safely for swimmers.
- Report any damaged or missing drain covers immediately.



For More Information:

**Cabarrus Health Alliance:** <https://www.cabarrushealth.org/133/Public-Swimming-Pools>

**CDC Healthy Swimming Resource:** <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-swimming/index.html>

**CDC Model Aquatic Health Code:** <https://www.cdc.gov/model-aquatic-health-code/php/about/index.html>

**Pool Safely Parents Safety Tips:** <https://www.poolsafely.gov/parents/safety-tips/>

**American Red Cross – How To Prepare For An Emergency:** [https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/home-pool-safety.html?srsId=AfmBOoo\\_aVOYmrcpbX8efM84oMgTaU4Lz2O6gehXINQu-DIGoz38ssLw](https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/water-safety/home-pool-safety.html?srsId=AfmBOoo_aVOYmrcpbX8efM84oMgTaU4Lz2O6gehXINQu-DIGoz38ssLw)

**About Cabarrus Health Alliance:** Cabarrus Health Alliance is the public health authority of Cabarrus County. Cabarrus Health Alliance is an autonomous organization providing services and programs to meet public health needs. Cabarrus Health Alliance is a leader in public health and is nationally recognized for its innovation.

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**Compassion | Adaptability | Integrity | Collaboration**