

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Discovery of Faeces and Vomiting Material at Public Swimming Pools

PURPOSE

This paper briefs members about the incidents on discovery of faeces and vomitus in the water of public swimming pools since the start of this swimming season from 1 April 2005 and seeks Members' views on the measures to address the problem.

BACKGROUND

2. Contamination by faeces or vomitus of swimming pools may lead to outbreak of infections associated with faecally derived viruses, bacteria and pathogens. Immediate action has to be taken to avoid spread of disease due to such incidents. The Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) has kept record of such incidents in public swimming pools and implemented a series of measures to tackle such problem.

CASES ON RELEASE OF FAECES AND VOMITUS

3. As at 18 September 2005, there are altogether 78 cases on release of faeces and 68 cases on vomiting found in the water of public swimming pools in this swimming season. Summaries of the faecal discharge and vomiting cases are at **Annex I** and **Annex II** respectively. Each pool with reports of faeces and vomitus was closed for an average of 5 hours for disinfection.

4. For faecal discharge in 27 pools (out of 36 public swimming pools), the pools which have more frequent reports are Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool (10 cases), Kowloon Park Swimming Pool (8 cases), Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool (7 cases) and Sai Kung Swimming Pool (7 cases), which all had leisure pool facilities. Indeed, out of the 78 cases, 49 happened at leisure or children pools. While we could not identify the person involved in each and every case, many of such cases could be associated with children.

5. For vomiting cases, there are more cases at Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool (8 cases), Island East Swimming Pool (6 cases) and Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool (6 cases).

EXISTING MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM

6. To tackle the above problem which will cause disruption to swimming pool service, we have implemented the following measures –

- To facilitate the pool management to upkeep the hygiene and water quality of the water of public swimming pools, a set of comprehensive guidelines has already been issued to deal with the finding of faeces and vomitus in public swimming pools. Pool management now follows these guidelines and deals with the incidents in an orderly manner;
- Banners, leaflets and Announcement of Public Interest (API) for television and radio broadcast to appeal to the public to help maintain the cleanliness and hygiene of public swimming pools have been displayed or launched;
- Notices and public announcement have been arranged at the swimming pools to appeal to swimmers' cooperation for not fouling the pool water and to remind them the penalty for contravention;
- A special team has been deployed to inspect all public swimming pools and discuss with the pool management on ways to help control the problem;
- Supplementary guidelines to enhance transparency in the investigation process of such cases have been issued to the pool

management for adoption to address public concern;

- The investigation results of any such cases will be set out in a notice for display at the entrance of the swimming pools to enhance transparency ;
- Pool staff will advise swimmers with children at the pool entrance to bring their children to use toilet facilities before swimming; and
- Designated pool staff are arranged to patrol at the pool deck to carry out inspection.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

7. There is provision in the Public Swimming Pools Regulation that an offender who fouls or pollutes the water of the public swimming pools is liable to a fine of \$2,000 and imprisonment of 14 days. However, in most of the cases, the pool management could not identify the offenders. There have been a few cases that the offenders defecated in the pool water were identified. However, all the offenders identified were children with age below 10 and so far prosecution has not been taken against their parents or the accompanying adults. Though we have warned the parents and children in such cases, the Public Swimming Pools Regulation does not allow prosecution against minors. However, we have since consulted Department of Justice, and identified the Public Cleansing and Prevention Nuisances Regulation as a possible legislation for enforcement action (see para 9 below).

ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM

8. In addition to the existing measures, we have produced an API for radio broadcasting to advise swimmers to avoid taking too much food before swimming and should use the toilets before swimming. We have also produced a conspicuous “Standee sign” for the display of notices at swimming pools containing messages against faecal discharge or vomiting in the water of public swimming pools and informing the swimmers the legal consequence of the offence in order to catch the attention of swimmers.

9. For children polluting pool water with faeces, legal advice has confirmed that we can consider taking prosecution action against the guardian or parent accompanying the child who has committed the offence by the institution of Section 8(2)(a) of the Public Cleansing and Prevention Nuisances Regulation (Cap 132BK) that “No person having the care or custody of any child under 12 years of age shall permit, without reasonable cause, such child

to obey the call of nature in any street, public area or place exposed to the public view". The offender shall be liable to a fine of \$5,000 on the first conviction, and to a fine of \$10,000 on the second or subsequent conviction. In view of the sizeable number of faeces cases found so far, we would launch an intensive public education and would undertake the enforcement action against the offenders or their parents or guardians, where identified, in consultation with Department of Justice.

10. The Department will also form visiting teams to schools this winter to promote public swimming pool hygiene and water safety message to school children. Schools will also be invited to visit public swimming pools as well so that students will have better understanding about how hygiene is maintained in the pools and would focus more on the issue when they use our facilities. In addition, the Department is considering other administrative measures to deter irresponsible acts of defecation in the pool water such as to suspend the award of priority to the organization concerned for booking of public swimming pool facilities for a certain period of time.

ADVICE SOUGHT

11. Members are invited to advise on the proposals set out in paragraphs 6 to 10 of this paper to tackle the pollution of the water of public swimming pools by faecal discharge or vomitus.

Leisure and Cultural Services Department
September 2005

**Summary of Swimming Pools with Confirmed Discovery of Faeces in pool water
(as at 18.9.2005)**

Item	Name of Swimming Pool	Pool Facility affected	Date	Time
1.	Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool	Main pool	8.6.2005 (Wednesday)	8:45 p.m.
2.		Secondary pool	17.7.2005 (Sunday)	5:58 p.m.
3.	Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	2.7.2005 (Saturday)	4:05 p.m.
4.	Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	Teaching pool	11.7.2005 (Monday)	1:47 p.m.
5.		Main pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
6.	Chai Wan Swimming Pool	Children pool A	7.8.2005 (Sunday)	2:50 p.m.
7.		Secondary pool	12.8.2005 (Friday)	9:50 a.m.
8.	Lei Cheng Uk Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	19.7.2005 (Tuesday)	9:10 p.m.
9.		Secondary pool	10.8.2005 (Wednesday)	3:40 p.m.
10.	Sham Shui Po Park Swimming Pool	Main pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	3:25 p.m.
11.	Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	Outdoor leisure pool No. 2	15.4.2005 (Friday)	8:34 a.m.
12.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 3	1.5.2005 (Sunday)	3:38 p.m.
13.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 1	11.7.2005 (Monday)	7:30 p.m.
14.		Outdoor Leisure Pool No.3	24.7.2005 (Sunday)	8:10 p.m.
15.		Outdoor Leisure Pool No.3	25.7.2005 (Monday)	8:00 p.m.
16.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 1	23.8.2005 (Tuesday)	7:20 p.m.
17.		Indoor training pool	10.9.2005 (Saturday)	8:07 p.m.
18.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 1	11.9.2005 (Sunday)	11:28 a.m.
19.	Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	Pool No. 2	3.8.2005 (Wednesday)	7:15 p.m.
20.		Pool No. 2	4.8.2005 (Thursday)	10:45 a.m.

Item	Name of Swimming Pool	Pool Facility affected	Date	Time
21.	Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	Pool No. 3	8.8.2005 (Monday)	11:45 a.m.
22.		Pool No. 4	15.8.2005 (Monday)	3:15 p.m.
23.	Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool	Outdoor leisure pool No. 2	9.7.2005 (Saturday)	4:30 p.m.
24.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 3	15.7.2005 (Friday)	10:45 a.m.
25.		Indoor Leisure Pool No.1 and Indoor Training Pool	23.7.2005 (Saturday)	8:35 p.m.
26.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 2	25.7.2005 (Monday)	9:10 p.m.
27.		Indoor training pool	6.8.2005 (Saturday)	6:15 p.m.
28.		Indoor leisure pool No. 1 & outdoor leisure pool No. 2	7.8.2005 (Sunday)	4:25 p.m.
29.		Indoor leisure pool No. 1	18.8.2005 (Thursday)	4:50 p.m.
30.	Morse Park Swimming Pool	Teaching pool No. 3	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	12:00 noon
31.	Jordan Valley Swimming Pool	Fun pool	12.6.2005 (Sunday)	4:40 p.m.
32.		Activity pool	17.7.2005 (Sunday)	9:40 p.m.
33.		Fun pool	25.8.2005 (Thursday)	10:00 a.m.
34.		Fun Pool	11.9.2005 (Sunday)	5:30 p.m.
35.	Kwun Tong Swimming Pool	Training pool No. 3	15.5.2005 (Sunday)	5:30 p.m.
36.	Kwai Shing Swimming Pool	Paddling pool	12.6.2005 (Sunday)	4:30 p.m.
37.	Jockey Club Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool	Leisure pool No.1 & Leisure Pool No.2	10.7.2005 (Sunday)	2:00 p.m.
38.	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	13.7.2005 (Wednesday)	5:40 p.m.
39.		Secondary pool	17.7.2005 (Sunday)	1:45 p.m.
40.		Main Pool	5.9.2005 (Monday)	9:10 p.m.
41.	Yuen Long Swimming Pool	Paddling pool	23.8.2005 (Tuesday)	5:45 p.m.
42.	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	Teaching pool	21.6.2005 (Tuesday)	8.45 p.m.

Item	Name of Swimming Pool	Pool Facility affected	Date	Time
43.	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	3.7.2005 (Sunday)	11:05 a.m.
44.		Leisure pool	10.7.2005 (Sunday)	4:50 p.m.
45.		Leisure pool	20.7.2005 (Wednesday)	6:20 p.m.
46.		Teaching pool	23.7.2005 (Saturday)	9:25 p.m.
47.		Leisure pool	30.7.2005 (Saturday)	7:35 a.m.
48.		Training pool	30.7.2005 (Saturday)	7:45 a.m.
49.		Leisure pool	3.8.2005 (Wednesday)	2:10 p.m.
50.		Teaching pool	6.8.2005 (Saturday)	2:40 p.m.
51.		Leisure Pool	5.9.2005 (Monday)	4:35 p.m.
52.		Shing Mun Valley Swimming Pool	Teaching pool	28.6.2005 (Tuesday)
53.	Leisure Pool		3.9.2005 (Saturday)	5:10 p.m.
54.	Outdoor leisure pool		10.9.2005 (Saturday)	3:40 p.m.
55.	Tsing Yi Swimming Pool	Shallow Pool	26.7.2005 (Tuesday)	8:45pm
56.	Sheung Shui Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	19.7.2005 (Tuesday)	4:52 p.m.
57.	Fanling Swimming Pool	Training pool	12.5.2005 (Thursday)	7:00 p.m.
58.	Tai Po Swimming Pool	Teaching pool No. 2	6.7.2005 (Wednesday)	5:59 p.m.
59.		Children Pool	4.8.2005 (Thursday)	5:15 p.m.
60.	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool	Children pool	17.7.2005 Wednesday)	4:30 p.m.
61.		Secondary pool	24.8.2005 (Wednesday)	10:40 a.m.
62.		Teaching pool No.2	10.9.2005 (Saturday)	3:55 p.m.
63.		Children pool	12.9.2005 (Monday)	10:55 a.m.
64.	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	Toddler pool	25.7.2005 (Monday)	5:25 p.m.

Item	Name of Swimming Pool	Pool Facility affected	Date	Time
65.	Ma On Shan Swimming Pool	Teaching Pool No. 2	29.7.2005 (Friday)	10:10 am
66.		Toddler & training pool	24.8.2005 (Wednesday)	9:05 p.m.
67.		Toddler & training pool	26.8.2005 (Friday)	4:08 p.m.
68.		Teaching pool No.2	26.8.2005 (Friday)	4:50 p.m.
69.	Hin Tin Swimming Pool	Leisure Pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	3:10 pm
70.	Sai Kung Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	14.5.2005 (Saturday)	6:00 p.m.
71.		Training pool	22.5.2005 (Sunday)	10:30 a.m.
72.		Leisure pool	23.5.2005 (Monday)	6:20 p.m.
73.		Leisure pool	31.7.2005 (Sunday)	5:25 p.m.
74.		Leisure Pool	4.8.2005 (Thursday)	6:15 p.m.
75.		Leisure Pool	25.8.2005 (Thursday)	5:10 p.m.
76.		Teaching Pool	12.9.2005 (Monday)	8:00 p.m.
77.		Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	Main Pool	3.8.2005 (Wednesday)
78.	Leisure pool		17.8.2005 (Wednesday)	5:20 p.m.

**Summary of Public Swimming Pools with Vomitus Cases
(as at 18.9.2005)**

Item	Name of SP	Facility affected	Date	Time
1.	Pao Yue Kong Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	6.8.2005 (Saturday)	4:30 p.m.
2.	Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	4.7.2005 (Monday)	8:40 p.m.
3.		Secondary pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	11:30 a.m.
4.		Leisure pool	8.8.2005 (Monday)	1:50 p.m.
5.	Morrison Hill Swimming Pool	Training pool	12.8.2005 (Friday)	11:35 a.m.
6.		Teaching Pool	30.8.2005 (Tuesday)	3:30 p.m.
7.		Training Pool	31.8.2005 (Wednesday)	10:30 a.m.
8.		Training pool	2.9.2005 (Friday)	8:23 p.m.
9.	Victoria Park Swimming Pool	Children Pool	13.7.2005 (Wednesday)	6:25p.m.
10.		Children pool	3.8.2005 (Wednesday)	2:00 p.m.
11.	Island East Swimming Pool	Training Pool	26.6.2005 (Sunday)	8:15 p.m.
12.		Training Pool	1.7.2005 (Friday)	1:45 p.m.
13.		Training Pool	2.7.2005 (Saturday)	8:25 a.m.
14.		Training Pool	2.7.2005 (Saturday)	6:35 p.m.
15.		Leisure Pool	9.7.2005 (Saturday)	3:30 p.m.
16.		Training pool	4.8.2005 (Thursday)	9:20 a.m.
17.	Chai Wan Swimming Pool	Teaching pool No. 1	22.8.2005 (Monday)	4:20 p.m.
18.		Main Pool	3.9.2005 (Saturday)	11:15 a.m.
19.	Sham Shui Po Park Swimming Pool	Children pool	16.7.2005 (Saturday)	5:25 p.m.
20.	Lei Cheng Uk Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	3.7.2005 (Sunday)	6:10 p.m.

Item	Name of SP	Facility affected	Date	Time
21.	Lai Chi Kok Park Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	2.9.2005 (Friday)	9:15 p.m.
22.	Kowloon Park Swimming Pool	Indoor leisure pool	11.7.2005 (Monday)	6:18 p.m.
23.		Indoor leisure pool	21.7.2005 (Thursday)	6:33 p.m.
24.		Main pool	5.8.2005 (Friday)	7:20 p.m.
25.		Main pool	11.8.2005 (Thursday)	7:20 p.m.
26.		Outdoor leisure pool No. 3	18.8.2005 (Thursday)	7:01 p.m.
27.	Ho Man Tin Swimming Pool	Pool. No. 3	26.6.2005 (Sunday)	2:25 p.m.
28.		Pool. No. 2	20.7.2005 (Wednesday)	9:25 a.m.
29.		Pool No. 2	12.8.2005 (Friday)	2:35 p.m.
30.	Tai Wan Shan Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	11.7.2005 (Monday)	6:46 p.m.
31.		Teaching Pool No. 3	31.7.2005 (Sunday)	4:15 p.m.
32.		Teaching Pool No. 1	31.7.2005 (Sunday)	6:40 p.m.
33.		Secondary Pool	26.8.2005 (Friday)	6:55 p.m.
34.	Kowloon Tsai Swimming Pool	Children's fun pool	10.8.2005 (Wednesday)	8:00 p.m.
35.	Hammer Hill Road Swimming Pool	Indoor training pool	14.7.2005 (Thursday)	10:30 a.m.
36.		Indoor training pool	19.7.2005 (Tuesday)	8:00 p.m.
37.		Indoor training pool	2.8.2005 (Tuesday)	9:32 p.m.
38.	Morse Park Swimming Pool	Secondary Pool	24.7.2005 (Sunday)	7:30 p.m.
39.		Teaching pool No. 2	15.8.2005 (Monday)	7:00 p.m.
40.		Children's Fun Pool	28.8.2005 (Sunday)	2:45 p.m.
41.	Kwun Tong Swimming Pool	Secondary Pool	19.5.2005 (Thursday)	2:35 p.m.
42.		Training pool No. 2	25.7.2005 (Monday)	5:40 p.m.

Item	Name of SP	Facility affected	Date	Time
43.	Kwun Tong Swimming Pool	Teaching Pool No.1	29.7.2005 (Friday)	2:40 p.m.
44.	Tuen Mun Swimming Pool	Secondary pool	20.7.2005 (Wednesday)	3:15 p.m.
45.	Yan Oi Tong Swimming Pool	Leisure pool 1	2.8.2005 (Tuesday)	8:15 p.m.
46.		Leisure pool 2	31.8.2005 (Wednesday)	5:05 p.m.
47.	Tin Shui Wai Swimming Pool	Leisure pool	5.7.2005 (Tuesday)	8:45 p.m.
48.		Training pool	25.7.2005 (Monday)	3:55 p.m.
49.		Leisure pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	8:05 p.m.
50.		Teaching pool	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	8:55 p.m.
51.		Training pool	15.8.2005 (Monday)	7:00 p.m.
52.		Leisure Pool	11.9.2005 (Sunday)	5:20 p.m.
53.	Tsuen King Circuit Wu Chung Swimming Pool	Children pool	16.7.2005 (Saturday)	9:05 p.m.
54.	North Kwai Chung Jockey Club Swimming Pool	Training pool	9.8.2005 (Tuesday)	2:25 p.m.
55.		Training pool	9.8.2005 (Tuesday)	5:00 p.m.
56.	Sha Tin Jockey Club Swimming Pool	Main Pool	12.6.2005 (Sunday)	2:57 p.m.
57.		Teaching pool No. 1	2.7.2005 (Saturday)	9:00 p.m.
58.		Diving pool	3.7.2005 (Sunday)	3:40 p.m.
59.		Teaching Pool No. 2	9.7.2005 (Saturday)	6:30 p.m.
60.		Teaching Pool No. 1	28.7.2005 (Thursday)	8:15 p.m.
61.	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	Main pool	23.7.2005 (Saturday)	4:00 p.m.
62.		Teaching pool	23.7.2005 (Saturday)	5:10 p.m.
63.		Leisure pool	24.7.2005 (Sunday)	2:40 p.m.
64.		Main pool	4.8.2005 (Thursday)	10:00 a.m.

Item	Name of SP	Facility affected	Date	Time
65.	Tseung Kwan O Swimming Pool	Teaching Pool No.1	7.8.2005 (Sunday)	9:40 p.m.
66.		Main pool	8.8.2005 (Monday)	7:30 p.m.
67.		Training Pool No. 1 & 2	27.8.2005 (Saturday)	8:40 p.m.
68.		Main pool	13.9.2005 (Tuesday)	5:05 p.m.