

# Clark County Parks & Recreation Department

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**Jane Pike, Director**  
Mindy Meyers, Assistant Director

May 6, 2015  
Dear Patron,

As you may know, Desert Breeze Aquatic facility has been closed since April 27, 2015, to ensure the continued health of our swim community. Clark County employs rigorous disinfection procedures at all of its pools and recreation facilities, and follows all mandated public health protocols including regular water testing. Clark County's Department of Parks and Recreation received notification on April 27<sup>th</sup> that water samples indicated the presence of *Staphylococcus epidermidis*. The pool was immediately closed, and Clark County notified the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and began working with an environmental consulting lab to determine appropriate protocols to disinfect the pool and ensure public health.

A 24-hour process referred to as super-chlorination was initiated to clean the pool's water, water filtration and circulation system. As an additional precaution, all pool surfaces including locker rooms, showers, bathrooms, benches, bleachers, life guard benches, rails and decking were disinfected by a licensed and bonded sanitation contractor. The water was tested the following day, and on April 30<sup>th</sup> the lab notified Clark County that one of the samples again tested positive for *Staphylococcus epidermidis*.

On May 1, upon further discussion with our environmental consulting lab, Clark County initiated a 48-hour hyper-chlorination process to disinfect the pool water and related filtration and circulation systems. Samples taken May 4, 2015, were sent for testing and we are currently awaiting the results.

Desert Breeze Pool will remain closed until stringent lab results confirm no evidence of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* or other harmful bacteria within the water testing samples. In our discussions with health officials, it is unknown what caused the presence of *Staphylococcus epidermidis* in the pool water. Clark County will continue with its rigorous disinfection procedures and is working diligently with our consultant and health officials to resolve this issue.

The Southern Nevada Health District advises the public to consult your physician if you have experienced symptoms of a rash that you believe may be related to the *Staphylococcus epidermidis* bacteria. In addition, the Health District recommends the following measures:

- Don't touch any bumps, rashes, cuts, infected areas, or bandages on another person's skin.
- Don't share items, like towels or razors, with other people.
- Keep cuts and scrapes clean and cover them with bandages.

If you have a skin infection:

- Don't go in recreational water, it might be difficult to keep skin adequately covered. Other germs from the water can get into your wound(s) and cause additional infections.
- If you do go in the water, cover any bumps, rashes, cuts, or infected areas with water tight bandages.
- Practice good hygiene by regularly washing hands with soap and water.
- Don't let other people touch your bumps, rashes, cuts, infected areas, or bandages.

Thank you for your patience as we work to resolve this issue.

Clark County Department of Parks & Recreation