



CERT



NASSAU COUNTY



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**CERT IS
WHAT
YOU
MAKE IT**



**COUNTY,
STATE,
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM**

CERT Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2020

Dear Members,

We hope each of you, your families and loved ones are all healthy and safe.

Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone, especially first responders, doctors, nurses, those in the medical field, and everyone working behind the scenes to keep us safe and healthy. Also all those affected by this pandemic crisis.

As communities and businesses are opening, our state and region continue to battle the current public health crisis. Nassau County is showing signs of recovery and is in the midst of “Phase 3” of reopening from the COVID-19 shutdown and “Phase 4” scheduled for early July. However, we must continue to be vigilant. It is important to understand potential risks and how to adopt different types of prevention measures to protect yourself and to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

We would like to Thank all those CERT members for taking time out of their busy schedules to assist with the COVID-19 EOC activation.

Our door is always open, just need to maintain social distancing, please contact Bob, Rick, Paul or your Division Leaders if you have any concerns, questions. We are here for all of you.

Have a Happy 4th of July

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy

Bob, Rick & Paul

LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



DR. LAWRENCE EISENSTEIN
COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

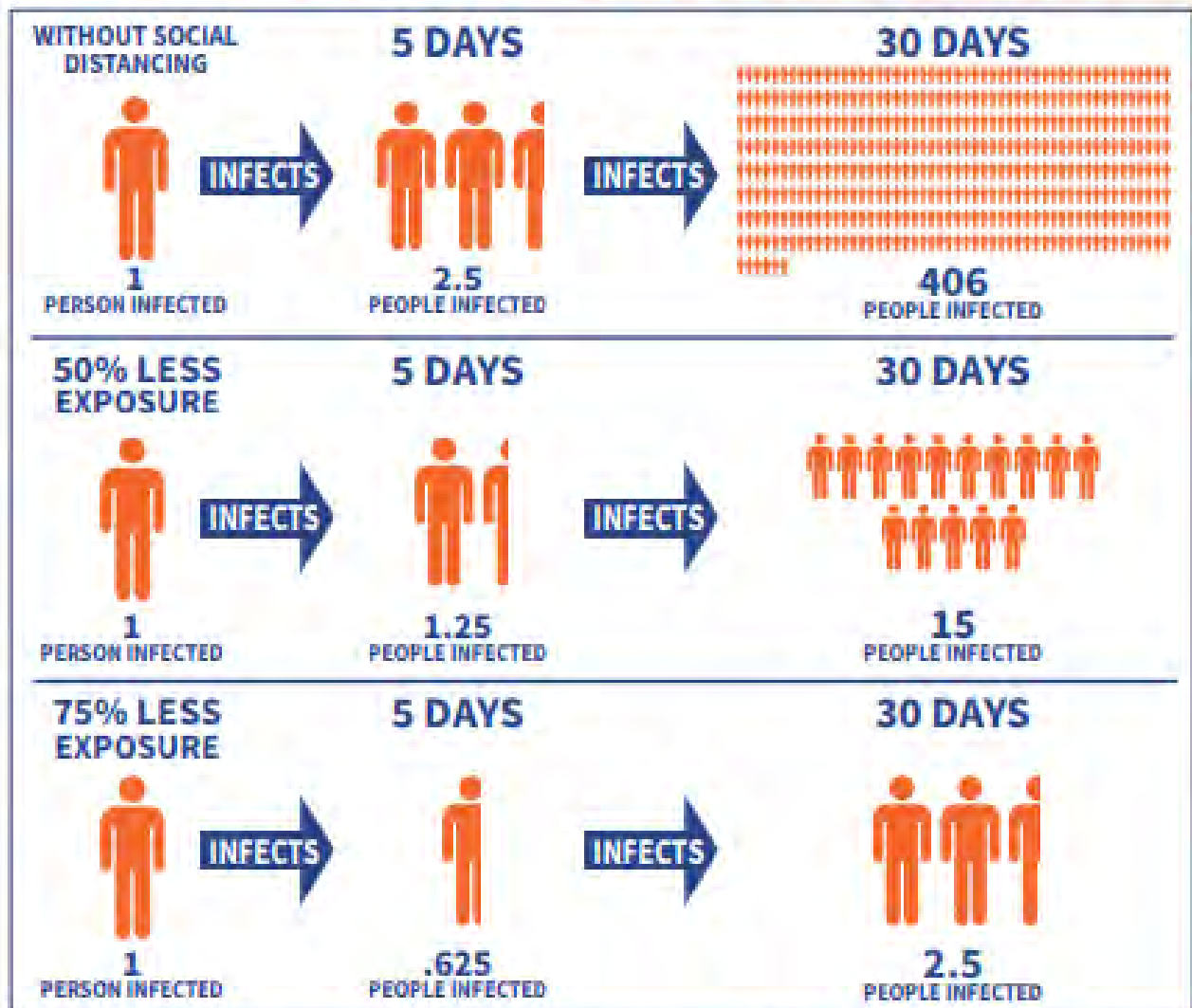
If you have any questions, please call the
NYS CORONAVIRUS HOTLINE 888-364-3065
or call
NASSAU COUNTY CORONAVIRUS CALL CENTER 516-227-9570

Nassau County Department of Health • 200 County Seat Drive, Mineola





THE POWER OF SOCIAL DISTANCING



STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Maintain 6 Feet of Distance At All Times in Public

If you have any questions, please call the
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Nassau County Department of Health • 200 County Seat Drive, Mineola



Leave Fireworks to the Experts

Summer is synonymous with barbecues, parades and fireworks. The National Safety Council advises everyone to enjoy fireworks at public displays conducted by professionals, and not to use any fireworks at home. They may be legal but they are not safe.

In 2017, eight people died and over 12,000 were injured badly enough to require medical treatment after fireworks-related incidents. Of these, 50% of the injuries were to children and young adults under age 20. Over two-thirds (67%) of injuries took place from June 16 to July 16. And while the majority of these incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade, homemade or other illegal fireworks or explosives, an estimated 1,200 injuries were from less powerful devices like small firecrackers and sparklers.



Additionally, fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires each year, including 1,300 structure fires, 300 vehicle fires and nearly 17,000 other fires.

If You Choose to Use Legal Fireworks

If consumer fireworks are legal to buy where you live and you choose to use them, be sure to follow the following safety tips:

- Never allow young children to handle fireworks
- Older children should use them only under close adult supervision
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol
- Anyone using fireworks or standing nearby should wear protective eyewear
- Never hold lighted fireworks in your hands
- Never light them indoors
- Only use them away from people, houses and flammable material
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting
- Never ignite devices in a container
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks
- Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding
- Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire
- Never use illegal fireworks

Better yet, grab a blanket and a patch of lawn, kick back and let the experts handle the fireworks show.

Sparklers Are Dangerous

Every year, young children can be found along parade routes and at festivals with sparklers in hand, but sparklers are a lot more dangerous than most people think.

Sparklers burn at about 2,000 degrees – hot enough to melt some metals. Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet. According to the National Fire Protection Association, sparklers alone account for more than 25% of emergency room visits for fireworks injuries. For children under 5 years of age, sparklers accounted for nearly half of the total estimated injuries.

Consider using safer alternatives, such as glow sticks, confetti poppers or colored streamers.

Table 1. Estimated Fireworks-Related, Emergency Department-Treated Injuries: 2004-2019

Year	Estimated Injuries	Injuries per 100,000 People
2019	10,000	3.0
2018	9,100	2.8
2017	12,900	4.0
2016	11,100	3.4
2015	11,900	3.7
2014	10,500	3.3
2013	11,400	3.6
2012	8,700	2.8
2011	9,600	3.1
2010	8,600	2.8
2009	8,800	2.9
2008	7,000	2.3
2007	9,800	3.3
2006	9,200	3.1
2005	10,800	3.7
2004	9,500	3.3

Stay Safe and Healthy in Your Backyard Pool



COVID-19 and pools

Currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 can spread to people through recreational water. However, it is important to limit close contact with people outside of your home when visiting public pools, hot tubs, and water playgrounds, as well as natural bodies of water—like beaches and lakes—to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Having a backyard pool can be a fun way for you and your family to be active at home or just relax. However, it is important to know what to do to reduce the risk of injury and illness. Keep your backyard pool safe and healthy to maximize all the health benefits that swimming can bring.

TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death in young children 1–4 years old, but there are things you can do to prevent drowning from happening in your pool:

- Make sure everyone has basic swim skills and water safety awareness.
- Use U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jackets as directed.
- Provide continuous and close supervision to swimmers.
- Know how to recognize and respond to a swimmer in distress and how to perform CPR.
- Prevent access to the water when the pool is not in use.
 - ◆ Install and maintain barriers such as four-sided fencing.
 - ◆ Use locks/alarms for windows and doors.



HANDLE POOL CHEMICALS SAFELY

Pool chemicals, like chlorine, are needed to protect swimmers' health. However, mishandling pool chemicals can cause serious injuries. Pool chemical injuries lead to about 4,500 U.S. emergency department visits each year, and over one-third of these preventable injuries are in children or teens.

If you store and pool chemicals at your home, take the following steps to prevent pool chemical injuries:

- Read and follow all directions on product labels.
- Wear safety equipment—such as masks, gloves, and goggles—when handling chemicals.
- Keep chemicals secure and away from children and pets.

Inflatable & Plastic Kiddie Pools

Small Inflatable and Plastic Pools Can Spread Illness

Small inflatable pools and plastic pools (usually 3 to 5 feet diameter) or other small water play attractions (for example, slides) have been associated with the spread of recreational water illnesses (RWIs). RWIs can be spread by swallowing or having contact with contaminated recreational water. These illnesses are caused by germs such as Crypto (short for Cryptosporidium), E. coli O157:H7, and Shigella.



Small inflatable and plastic pools are typically filled with tap water. Some people in the United States have a disinfectant in their tap water but this is not adequate to kill germs that may get into water used for swimming. Sources of information exist about how to disinfect these pools. However, it may not be practical to kill germs by adding chlorine bleach to small pools. This is because the chlorine dose cannot be easily determined or safely monitored to ensure that the right amount of chlorine continuously stays in the water. These pools also do not have filters to remove particles that could prevent the chlorine from working well. Using these types of pools increases the risk of spreading RWIs brought into the water by swimmers with a diarrheal illness.

The use of small inflatable and plastic pools in child care programs or schools should be discouraged. This includes small child care settings in private homes. The larger number of children from different families in child care settings and schools can increase the risk for spreading RWIs.

Children from one family or household are often bathed together so they are unlikely to be at increased risk of spreading diarrheal illness to each other if allowed to use the same inflatable or plastic pool. However, allowing larger numbers of children from different families to use these pools is likely to increase the risk of spreading diarrheal illnesses. Any household deciding to use these types of small pools should follow the steps below to reduce the spread of illness:

Before Use

- Do not allow a child who is ill with diarrhea or vomiting to use the pool.
- Give children a cleansing soap shower or bath before they swim.
- Talk to parents or caregivers about their children's health before these children use the pool.

During Use

- Remind children to avoid getting pool water in their mouths.
- Respond to feces in the pool or a child with a dirty diaper.
- Clear the pool of children, empty, and then clean it. In the case of diarrheal incidents, once the pool has been cleaned and is completely dry, leave it in the sun for at least four hours.

After Use

- Drain or empty the pool. Medium and larger-sized inflatable and plastic pools that cannot be emptied daily should have filters and appropriate disinfection systems that meet the same codes and requirements as full-sized swimming pools.
- Clean the pool and allow it to dry. Once the pool is completely dry, leave it in the sun for at least four hours.
Remember that these small pools can also pose a drowning hazard if not properly supervised or enclosed. Local swimming pool codes may require fences around small inflatable and plastic pools.