



Admission Standards for Public Pools

Effective June 27, 2009

Admission Standards for Public Pools were developed by the Office of the Chief Coroner to assist lifeguards and assistant lifeguards in maintaining adequate surveillance over the whereabouts and the activities of young bathers while they are inside the pool enclosure.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care strongly supports these recommendations for the purposes of preventing injuries and fatalities.

1. **Children aged 6-9 years** who are non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who is at least 14 years of age and responsible for their direct supervision. The ratio of non-swimmers to parent or guardian may be a maximum of 4:1. *Note: If any children in the group are 5 years of age and under, a ratio of 2:1 is required. See bullet 2 for more information.*

A. Children aged 6 & 7 who are able to pass the facility swim test each time will receive a wrist band. Parent or guardians must be actively participating in the water and supervising their child within the pool enclosure.

B. Children aged 8 & 9 years who are able to pass the facility swim test may be admitted to the swimming pool unaccompanied. A wrist band & facility swim test card will be issued.

2. **Children under the age of 6 years** may not be admitted to the swimming pool unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian who is responsible for their direct supervision (within arms reach), with a maximum of two children for each parent or guardian.

3. **Guardians or group leaders** are responsible for the children in their care while in the facility and must directly supervise (in the water) the children at all times.

SWIM TEST CRITERIA

- Submerge entire head under water in any comfortable way, including face, ears and back of head.
- In a relaxed manner, swim continuously two widths of the pool on front using any form of propulsion (arms/legs combination).
- Maintain near horizontal body position.
- Swim in one direction, turn and then swim in the opposite direction.

