

Break the Barriers Aquatics Program Health & Bathroom-Readiness Policy

Purpose

Break the Barriers is committed to providing inclusive aquatics programming while protecting the health and safety of all participants, staff, and visitors. Because pool contamination incidents require immediate closure, cleaning, and disruption of services, participants must be able to safely participate without creating a contamination risk.

Equal Access & Non-Discrimination

Break the Barriers does not discriminate based on disability, medical condition, age, race, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or any other protected characteristic. Reasonable modifications will be provided when necessary to afford equal access unless the modification would:

- Create a significant health or safety risk that cannot be reduced to an acceptable level;
- Prevent compliance with public health requirements; or
- Fundamentally alter the nature of the Aquatics Program.

Bathroom Readiness Requirement

To participate in aquatics, participants must be able to safely avoid pool contamination through one or more of the following:

- Independent restroom use;
- Ability to communicate or signal when a restroom break is needed;
- A toileting or bathroom-break schedule;
- Another approved health and safety support plan.

Parents, guardians, caregivers, aides, and adult participants must provide accurate information regarding bathroom readiness, illness, diarrhea, vomiting, or other conditions that may increase contamination risk.

Participants may not enter the pool if they:

- Have diarrhea or vomiting within the previous 48 hours; or
- Have another condition creating a risk of pool contamination.

Reasonable Modifications

Break the Barriers will consider individualized accommodations, including:

- Scheduled restroom breaks;
- Caregiver or aide assistance;
- Bathroom-readiness plans;
- Communication supports;
- Other reasonable modifications that reduce health and safety risks.

Pool Contamination Incidents

A pool contamination incident includes stool, diarrhea, vomit, blood, or other bodily-fluid contamination requiring pool closure, cleaning, disinfection, or reporting.

First Incident

A participant will not automatically be removed. Break the Barriers may meet with the family or participant and require a bathroom-readiness plan or other supports to reduce future risk.

Second Incident

Break the Barriers will conduct an individualized review. If it determines the participant cannot safely continue without creating a significant health or safety risk that cannot be reduced through reasonable modifications, the participant may be removed from the Aquatics Program. Removal from aquatics is not removal from Break the Barriers. Alternative programs may be offered when appropriate. Participants may request re-entry in a future session and may be required to provide updated information or support plans demonstrating safe participation.

Illness Requirements

Participants may not attend aquatics while experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, fever, or other contagious illness symptoms and must be symptom-free for at least 48 hours before returning. Participants with contagious diarrheal illnesses, including *Cryptosporidium*, may not return until at least two weeks after symptoms have completely stopped unless written medical or public health clearance is provided.

Accuracy of Information

Knowingly providing inaccurate or incomplete information regarding bathroom readiness, illness, or contamination history may result in suspension or removal from the Aquatics Program.

Accommodation Requests

Break the Barriers encourages participants and families to discuss accommodation needs before participation. The organization's goal is to support participation whenever it can be done safely, respectfully, and in compliance with public health requirements.