

**UPDATE:**

# **The Model Aquatic Health Code**



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# The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) Defined

- A voluntary model and set of guidelines used by local and state agencies to prevent illness and injury at public aquatic facilities; supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Evidence-based research and best practices used to help guide communities with developing, implementing, and updating codes for pools and other aquatic venues
- Outlines specific rules that must be followed by designers, builders, and managers of public aquatic facilities to help maximize the health-related benefits of water-based activities
- The MAHC guidelines are voted on and amended every three years; can be adopted completely or in parts (CMAHC, n.d.).



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The Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC) is the guiding body working with academic professionals, public health officials, and aquatics experts to help develop, prioritize, and fund solutions for research needed to improve the MAHC.

Every three years, the CMAHC joins the public health, environmental, and aquatic sectors to attend the **Vote on the Code Conference** and update the MAHC rules (CMAHC, n.d.).

In preparation for changes to the 5th Edition of the MAHC, the Hot Springs Association is currently reviewing water regulations in 16 states: AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, NC, OR, SD, TX, UT, WA, and WY.



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# Summary of the State Water Regulation Spreadsheet

- **Water Turnover Rates:** Most states require a continuous circulation system with a complete turnover of pool water every 6 to 8 hours.
- **Disinfectants:** Chlorine & bromine most used; other disinfectants usually must be approved. Most states require automatic/mechanical ways to add disinfectants.
- **Testing & Water Samples:** Average pH levels between 6.6 and 8; alkalinity between 50-200 mg/l. Depending on sample taken, frequency is hourly, daily, weekly or monthly. Data records usually must be kept a minimum of 2 or 3 years.
- **Water Temperature:** Between 102 to 115 degrees; average temp is 104 degrees
- **Flow Through Exceptions:** Most states waive the usual circulation & disinfectant requirements because water flows in and out of flow through pools (water is not recirculated).



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# **Essential Service Designation**



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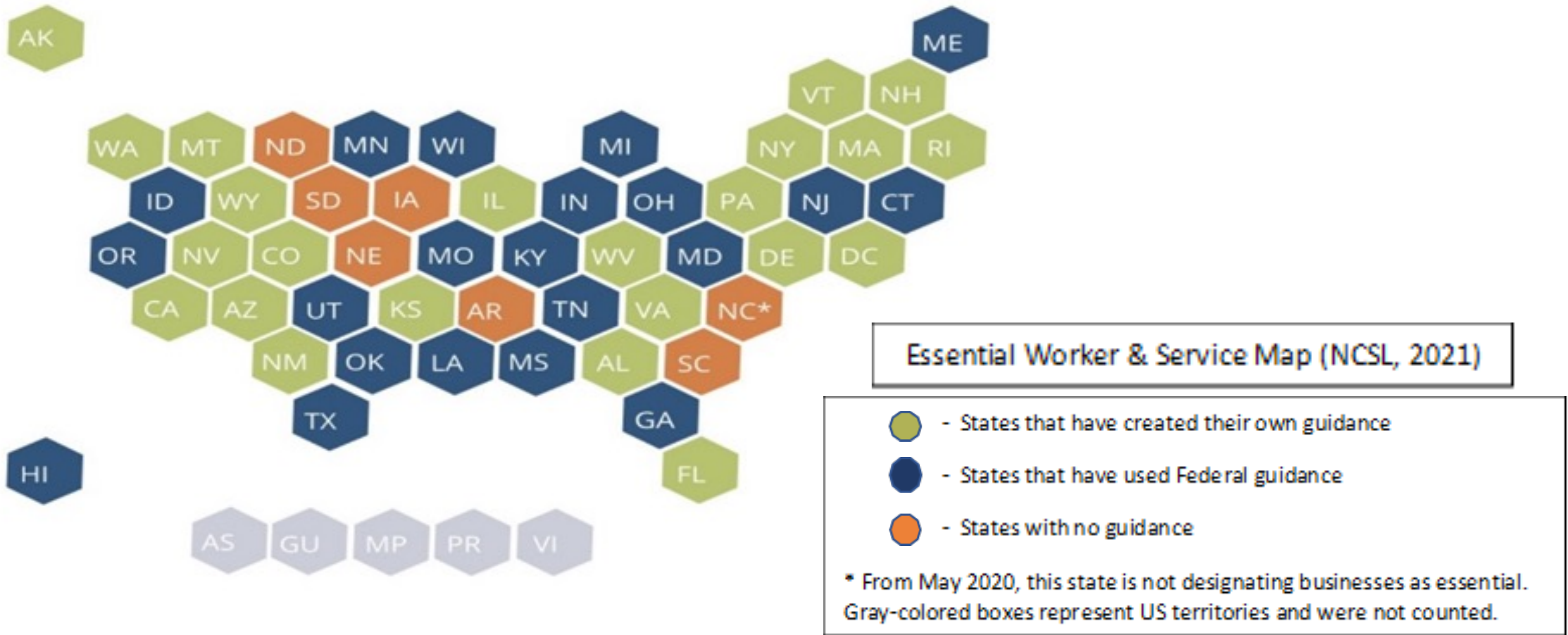
In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), has developed an official "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce" advisory list (CISA, 2020).

- Created in collaboration with other federal agencies, the private sector, and state and local governments
- Designed to help local, tribal, territorial, and state officials identify workers in industries deemed critical to the stability and continuity of public health and safety, as well as economic and national security in America
- Under the ***Healthcare and Public Health Sector***, healthcare-related activities and interventions are delivered and managed more effectively at the local level



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Business and government responses to pandemics like COVID-19 should be "**locally executed**, state managed, and federally supported" (CISA, 2020).



# Recommendation: Advocate for change from the bottom up!

Currently, there are no specific state policies that support the use of hot springs workers under the essential service designation. Local governments in which hot springs are located must lead the charge for the grassroots-style development of guidelines.

**STEP 1: Hot springs facilities**

**STEP 2: Local governments**

**STEP 3: State governments**

**STEP 4: Homeland Security's CISA**



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**Thank you for your kind attention.**



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## Resources

Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code. (n.d.). What is the MAHC?. Retrieved from <https://cmahc.org/what-is-the-mahc>

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency. (2020, March 28). Advisory Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during Covid-19 Response. Retrieved from [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version\\_3.0\\_CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workers\\_1.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_1.pdf)

National Conference of State Legislatures (2021, January 11). COVID-19 Essential Workers in the States. Retrieved from COVID-19: Essential Workers in the States ([ncsl.org](https://www.ncsl.org))



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