**Compliance Guide for New Regulations for Small Businesses**

**COMAR 10.17.01 Public Swimming Pools and Spas**

***What does this regulation do?***

This proposal will greatly clarify the conditions that may require a pool to either close immediately or continue to operate for up to 24 hours while an issue is resolved. The proposal also simplifies the permitting process for pools. Specifically, this proposal:

* Simplifies the permitting requirements;
* Reduces the frequency of inspections for pools in compliance;
* Creates a standardization mechanism for local health departments;
* Defines major (require correction within 24 hours) and critical (require immediate correction) violations;
* Makes general corrections and revisions to the requirements for pools and spas; and
* Allows pools to resume operations after replacing a part without first requiring an inspection.

***Who is subject to the new regulation?***

Public swimming pools and spas in Maryland.

***Why were the new regulations adopted?***

The regulations will reduce the number of pool closures and the operational burden for pool owners and operators. This will be accomplished by (1) allowing parts to be replaced before application or inspection, so that facilities can resume operations more quickly, and (2) providing greater specificity and transparency as to when a pool or spa must be closed.

***When are the regulations effective?***

The regulations will go into effect October 1, 2020.

***Is funding available to implement new requirements established by the regulation?***

No. Funding is not required to implement the proposed amendments to COMAR 10.17.01.

***Are there other resources available for implementing the requirements of the regulation?***

No

***Is there assistance available to help understand the requirements of the regulation?***

Questions can be directed to the Environmental Health Helpline at 1-866-703-3266 or mdh.envhealth@maryland.gov.