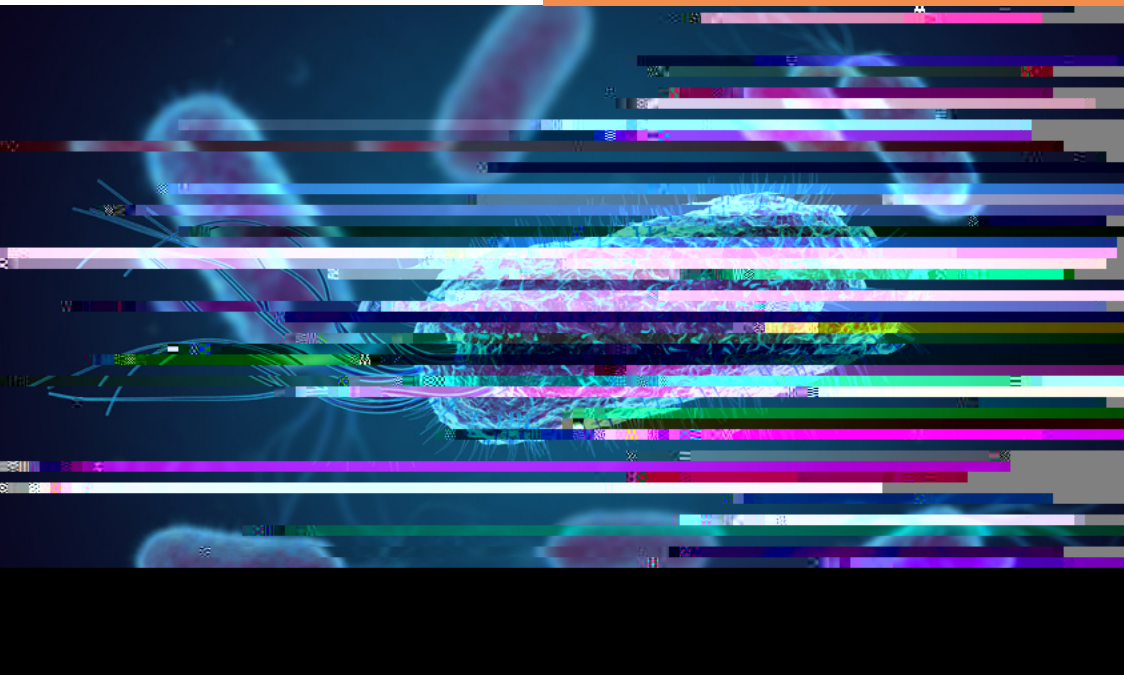


# MINIMIZE THE SPREAD SHIGELLA BACTERIA IN YOUR POOL OR SPA

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## Introduction

Operators of swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs should be alerted to the potential hazards of infectious waterborne diseases. With summer approaching, this hazard will increase as swimming pools and water facilities once again become popular pastimes. Establishing a healthy environment will help protect your patrons from the spread of recreational water illness (RWI).

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one of the most common and dangerous waterborne diseases today is shigellosis, which is caused by a group of bacteria called Shigella.

## Background

A dose of Shigella causes diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps that usually begin a day or two after exposure to the bacterium. The diarrhea is often bloody. Shigellosis usually resolves itself in five to seven days, but in some

cases, especially young children and the elderly, diarrhea can be so severe that those afflicted may require hospitalization.

