DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

Dear Colleague:

The week before Memorial Day, May 20–26, 2013, marks the ninth annual **Recreational Water Illness and Injury (RWII) Prevention Week**. As outdoor pools and beaches around the country open and Americans get ready for a summer full of swimming, this is an ideal time to raise awareness of RWIIs and promote healthy and safe swimming in your community. RWII Prevention Week is also a great time to reach out to public pool operators, beach managers, the media, residential pool owners, and the general public to initiate action.

This year's RWII Prevention Week theme is "How We Swimmers Contaminate Pools." It focuses on how practicing good swimmer hygiene can prevent recreational water illness.

Additionally, stay tuned for the first draft edition of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC; www.cdc.gov/mahc/). This single document integrates individual modules, in which first-round public comments have been addressed, and will be available for final public comment this summer. Please provide comments and make sure public health's voice is heard in the MAHC development process. As you know, the MAHC is a set of science-based and best-practice guidelines to reduce the risk of outbreaks, drowning, and pool-chemical poisoning. The first official edition of the MAHC is expected to be released by the 2014 summer swim season. As with FDA's Model National Food Code, the plan is to update the MAHC regularly.

To encourage and support your RWII Prevention Week efforts, we have provided a health promotion tool kit, which includes community outreach suggestions; a web-based resource list; and a sample press release, op-ed piece, and proclamation. We hope you will find these useful as you engage your community in RWII Prevention Week awareness efforts and educational activities. Please forward this message and its attachments to your communications, environmental health, and epidemiology colleagues so that they can collaborate with you in this important public health initiative.

We would love to hear about the activities in your area related to RWII Prevention Week; please send details to healthyswimming@cdc.gov.

For additional information about Recreational Water Illness and Injury Prevention Week, visit:
www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/rwi_prevention_week.htm

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