DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

May 2, 2018

Dear Colleague:

The week before Memorial Day, May 21–27, 2018, marks the 14th annual **Healthy and Safe Swimming Week** (HSSW). This is a great time to engage and collaborate with operators of public treated aquatic facilities, beach managers, the media, residential pool or hot tub/spa owners, and the public to maximize the health benefits of water-based physical activity by minimizing the risk of illness and injury.

This year's theme is "Swim Healthy. Stay Healthy." CDC will issue a *MMWR* report in mid-May that reviews 15 years of data (2000–2014) on outbreaks associated with treated recreational water, particularly outbreaks caused by parasites such as *Cryptosporidium* and bacteria such as *Legionella* and *Pseudomonas*. Although we have made great strides in some areas, we can do more to help ensure healthy swimming for everyone. We're encouraging the public to follow CDC's steps of healthy swimming to stay healthy at pools, hot tubs/spas, and water playgrounds.

In late June, CDC will issue a *MMWR* report that reviews 15 years of data (2000–2014) on outbreaks associated with untreated recreational water (fresh- or marine water). You can help maintain the momentum of Healthy and Safe Swimming Week throughout the summer by sharing information about a few simple but effective steps swimmers and parents of young swimmers can take to prevent illness caused by norovirus, *Escherichia coli*, *Shigella*, *Cryptosporidium*, harmful algal blooms, or *Naegleria fowleri* (also known as "the brain eating ameba") and associated with untreated recreational water.

We developed this health promotion toolkit to support your HSSW efforts. It includes community outreach suggestions; a web-based resource list; a sample press release, feature, and proclamation; and suggested social media messages. We hope you will find these resources useful as you engage your community during this awareness week and throughout the summer swim season. For more information on HSSW, visit: www.cdc.gov/healthywater/observances/hss-week/index.html.

Finally, as many of you know, the third edition of CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC; www.cdc.gov/mahc) will be released this summer. The MAHC is national guidance that can be adopted voluntarily by state and local jurisdictions to minimize the risk for illness and injury at public treated aquatic facilities. CDC is evaluating 180 MAHC change requests and revising the MAHC accordingly.

Thank you for your commitment to promoting healthy and safe swimming.

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