



Dear Colleague:

The week before Memorial Day, May 21–27, 2012, marks the eighth annual **Recreational Water Illness and Injury (RWII) Prevention Week**. As swimming pools around the country open their doors and children get ready for a summer full of swimming, this is an ideal time to raise awareness of recreational water illnesses and injuries 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 focuses on two important recreational water topics:

1. How new data on fatal and nonfatal drowning can guide prevention efforts
2. How health communication efforts might increase awareness of healthy swimming and recreational water–illness prevention

In addition, we need your help to review draft Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) modules and provide comments (www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/). The purpose of the MAHC is to provide a set of science-based standards relating to the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of swimming pools, hot tubs/spas, and other treated aquatic facilities. State, Tribal, local, and territorial public health practitioners and their partners can use these standards to prevent illnesses and injuries in their jurisdictions.

To encourage and support your RWII Prevention Week efforts, we have provided a health promotion tool kit, which includes a web-based resource list and a sample press release. 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 aquatic health program staff so that they can be involved 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 ehsb@cdc.gov.

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

Grant Baldwin PhD, MPH
Director, Division of
Unintentional Injury Prevention
National Center for Injury
Prevention and Control
Tel: (770) 488-1436
Email: GBaldwin@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/injury

Robert G. Blake, MPH, REHS
Chief, Environmental Health
Services Branch
National Center for
Environmental Health
Tel: (770) 488-4978
Email: RGBlake@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs

Michael J. Beach, PhD
Associate Director for
Healthy Water
National Center for Emerging
& Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Tel: (404) 639-1591
Email: MBeach@cdc.gov
www.cdc.gov/healthywater