Healthy and Safe Swimming Week — May 18–24, 2015

May 18–24, 2015, marks the 11th annual Healthy and Safe Swimming Week (formerly known as Recreational Water Illness and Injury Prevention Week). This observance highlights ways in which swimmers, parents, pool owners and operators, beach managers, and public health can maximize the health benefits of water-based physical activity, while minimizing the risk for recreational water–associated illness and injury. More information is available at http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/observances/hss-week/index.html.

This year’s theme, “Make a Healthy Splash: Share the Fun, Not the Germs,” focuses on a few easy and effective steps swimmers and parents can take to protect themselves and their families and friends from infectious pathogens in pools, waterparks, hot tubs, spas, and water playgrounds. These steps are highlighted in CDC’s new Healthy Swimming brochure, available with other free promotional materials at http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/resources/index.html.

CDC also released the 1st Edition of the Model Aquatic Health Code in August 2014 (1), a voluntary guidance document that can help state and local authorities and the aquatics sector make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer. The first Conference for the Model Aquatic Health Code (CMAHC) will be held October 6–7, 2015, in Scottsdale, Arizona, where CMAHC members* can vote on potential MAHC changes. A public health communications toolkit for Healthy and Safe Swimming Week is available at http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/observances/hss-week/response-tools-public-health.html.

*More information on how to become a CMAHC member is available at http://www.cmahc.org/membership.php.

Reference

1. CDC. The Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC); a model public swimming pool and spa code. Washington, DC: US Health and Human Services, CDC; 2014. Available at http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/.

Norovirus Outbreak Associated with a Natural Lake Used for Recreation — Oregon, 2014

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In July 2014, Multnomah County public health officials investigated a norovirus outbreak among persons visiting Blue Lake Regional Park in Oregon. During the weekend of the reported illnesses (Friday, July 11–Sunday, July 13) approximately 15,400 persons visited the park. The investigation identified 65 probable and five laboratory-confirmed cases of norovirus infection (70 total cases). No hospitalizations or deaths were reported. Analyses from a retrospective cohort study revealed that swimming at Blue Lake during July 12–13 was significantly associated with illness during July 13–14 (adjusted

INSIDE

491 Decrease in Rate of Opioid Analgesic Overdose Deaths — Staten Island, New York City, 2011–2013
495 Preliminary Incidence and Trends of Infection with Pathogens Transmitted Commonly Through Food — Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network, 10 U.S. Sites, 2006–2014
500 Controlling the Last Known Cluster of Ebola Virus Disease — Liberia, January–February 2015
505 Initiation of a Ring Approach to Infection Prevention and Control at Non-Ebola Health Care Facilities — Liberia, January–February 2015
509 Announcement
511 QuickStats

Continuing Education examination available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted_info.html#weekly.