



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

246 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

614/466-3543
www.odh.ohio.gov

Ted Strickland/Governor

Alvin D. Jackson, M.D./Director of Health

May 14, 2008

Dear Colleague:

The week of May 19–25, 2008 marks the fourth annual **Recreational Water Illness (RWI) Prevention Week**. Since this is the week prior to the traditional start of the summer swim season, RWI Prevention Week will be an opportunity to increase awareness in your community related to recreational water illnesses and healthy swimming practices.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided us with a health promotion tool kit and sample press release to be used as a source for ideas and actions in conjunction with national publicity planned for this week and your community's own local efforts. Please refer to the attached documents and share this message with your environmental health and communicable disease program staff so that they can be involved in CDC's Healthy Swimming Program Initiative.

In Ohio during 2007, local health departments provided preliminary reports of 6 confirmed and probable recreational water outbreaks affecting 740 people. RWI Prevention Week is an ideal opportunity to reach out to pool operators, beach managers, the media, and the public with prevention messages to raise awareness, initiate action and help your community members stay healthy.

Additional information about Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week 2008 can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/rwi_prevention_week.htm

Let us know about the activities in your area related to Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week by sending an e-mail to investigate@odh.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Barbara W. Bradley, MS, RN, CIC
Chief, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control

W. Gene Phillips, MPH, RS
Chief, Bureau of Environmental Health

Attachments