

Healthy and Safe Swimming Week — May 22–28, 2017

Healthy and Safe Swimming Week highlights measures that swimmers, parents of young swimmers, aquatic facility (e.g., swimming pool and support infrastructure) operators, residential pool or hot tub/spa owners, beach managers, and public health officials can take to maximize the health benefits of water-based physical activity while minimizing the risk for recreational water-associated illness and injury. A public health communications toolkit is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/observances/hss-week/response-tools-public-health.html>.

The theme of this year's observance is Diarrhea and Swimming Don't Mix. *Cryptosporidium*, a parasite that causes profuse, watery diarrhea, has emerged as the leading etiology of recreational water-associated outbreaks, particularly those associated with aquatic facilities (1). This issue of *MMWR* includes a report on *Cryptosporidium* molecular characterization, highlighting its utility in investigating these outbreaks (2).

In July 2016, CDC released the 2016 Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mahc/editions/current.html>). This national guidance can be voluntarily adopted by state and local jurisdictions to minimize the risk for public aquatic facility-associated illness and injury. The MAHC guidance reflects biennial input from public health professionals and other stakeholders through the Council for the MAHC (<https://www.cmahc.org>).

References

1. Hlavsa MC, Roberts VA, Kahler AM, et al. Outbreaks of illness associated with recreational water—United States, 2011–2012. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2015;64:668–72.
2. Hlavsa MC, Roellig DM, Seabolt MH, et al. Using molecular characterization to support investigations of aquatic facility-associated outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis—Alabama, Arizona, and Ohio, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2017;66:493–7.

Using Molecular Characterization to Support Investigations of Aquatic Facility–Associated Outbreaks of Cryptosporidiosis — Alabama, Arizona, and Ohio, 2016

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Cryptosporidiosis is a nationally notifiable gastrointestinal illness caused by parasitic protozoa of the genus *Cryptosporidium*, which can cause profuse, watery diarrhea that can last up to 2–3 weeks in immunocompetent patients

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

