



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30341-3724

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August 10, 2004

Mr. Patrick McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Blvd., Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

I was pleased to receive your letter on behalf of the Executive Committee and members of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) providing us with a copy of the CSTE position statement 04-ID-03 entitled "Prevention and Control of Recreational Water Illnesses." I understand that the statement was adopted at your Annual Conference, June 10, 2004 and is supported by the National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

We at the National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (NCEH/ATSDR) recognize the importance of recreational water illnesses (RWIs) associated with swimming in contaminated recreational water venues. There is no federal regulatory authority over these venues and, although increasing in popularity, they have received little attention in terms of resources and research funds.

We support the CSTE's strategy to address RWIs through a multifaceted and multidisciplinary approach. We support the recommendation that CDC sponsor a series of workshops to develop plans to address the prevention and control of RWIs. In addition, within our agency, we have a number of investigators who could contribute their relevant expertise to this planning process and welcome collaboration with CSTE and NCID in identifying and addressing the issues associated with preventing RWIs. To request participation of these experts, please contact Dr. Michael McGeehin, Chief, Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, at 770-488-3400.

Sincerely,

Henry Falk, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, National Center for Environmental
Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry
Rear Admiral, U.S.P.H.S. (Retired)



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AUG 24 2004

Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341-4015

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists' (CSTE) position statement 04-ID-03 entitled "Prevention and Control of Recreational Water Illnesses."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports the above position statement. This statement proposes that CDC sponsor a series of workshops for partners to develop a prevention plan for reducing the incidence of recreational water illnesses at swimming facilities, particularly disinfected facilities like swimming pools, waterparks, and spas. CDC agrees with the need for such a prevention plan and believes that a workshop would help focus efforts on this public health issue and provide direction and guidance for public health officials and the aquatic sector.

CDC, through its Healthy Swimming program, is working with state and local health departments and national associations to develop best practices for recreational water facilities. The agency recognizes the need for a workshop that will provide vision for future prevention efforts and build strong partnerships with the public health and aquatic sectors to reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission at swimming facilities. CDC is currently reviewing available resources that might be available for sponsoring this important workshop.

I appreciate the thoughtful work that went into developing the position statement and look forward to further collaboration between CSTE and CDC.

Sincerely,


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Director