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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