**Use The Model Aquatic Health Code to Make Swimming Healthy and Safe**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and partners — like state and local public health officials and industry experts — developed a Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC).

The MAHC is a free, evidence-based guidance document for local and state health professionals to make swimming and other water activities healthier and safer. Use the guidance to improve health and safety in:

* Public swimming pools
* Hot tubs and spas
* Water parks
* Other aquatic facilities

The MAHC guidelines address design, construction, operation, and maintenance requirements.

**Why is the MAHC important?**

Swimming is one of the nation’s most popular sporting activities. People in the United States make more than 300 million trips a year to pools and other places to swim, but some of these places aren’t clean or safe. A recent study found that 12% of inspected public pools were closed for serious violations.

**Y**ou can help keep people safe by using the MAHC to inspect aquatic facilities and reduce:

* **Drowning.** Accidental drowning is a leading cause of injury and death for children ages 1 to 14, second only to motor vehicle crashes.
* **Injuries and emergency room (ER) visits.** More than 30,000 children under the age of 10 visit the ER for swimming-related issues each year. Injuries from pool chemicals account for more than 4,000 ER visits each year.
* **Waterborne illness outbreaks.** These include stomach, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections resulting from exposure to contaminated swimming water.
* **Pool closings because of public health hazards.**

**How can I use the MAHC in my job?**

* Use the language in the MACH to update codes for swimming pools and other aquatic facilities.
* Use the MAHC to incorporate science-based practices into your state and local pool programs – without having to recreate the wheel.

The MAHC is a guidance document – which means that you can decide how to use it (since it isn’t a federal law). For example you can use, change, and incorporate the whole MAHC or pieces of it into your state or local codes.

**Where can I find more information about the MAHC?**

[Visit the Model Aquatic Health Code website](http://www.cdc.gov/mahc/) to access MAHC language, scientific rational, and references. There are 12 MAHC modules on topics like:

* Administering a Regulatory Pool Inspection Program
* Monitoring and Testing
* Designing and Constructing Aquatic Facilities

Check out these other sites for more information:

* [CDC Healthy Swimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming)
* [Recreational Water Illness and Injury Prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/rwi-prevention-week/)
* [Recreational Water Resources for Environmental Health Professionals](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/Topics/recreationalwater.htm)

**Will the MAHC change?**

Yes. You’ll have regular opportunities to share your feedback so the MAHC can be updated, improved, and remain scientifically relevant.