



RE: Pool Safely Day in Illinois

Dear Sir or Madam:

In May 2021, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) received a second Pool Safely Grant award from the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission. Through this grant, we will implement Pool Safely 10M - a coordinated regional child drowning prevention initiative. We aim to reach 10 million residents of the Chicago metropolitan area to provide water safety information and professional training.

Today, we invite you to participate in our kickoff activity, "Pool Safely Day" on Thursday July 15, 2021. Participating organizations will receive a **digital kit** which includes event flyers and messaging to promote Pool Safely Day. Promotion activities will be tailored to the participant and may include:

- Social media posting of digital flyers 3-4 times leading up to Pool Safely Day.
- Newsletter or web site posting of the Pool Safely Day announcement.
- Sharing of Pool Safely Day materials with the families you serve.
- Posting of Pool Safely Day printed/digital flyers throughout your facility on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

DCHD's Pool Safely 10M program emphasizes **simple steps and layers of prevention**: learn to swim, assign an adult **water watcher** to focus on swimmers, learn how to perform CPR and to use pool safety equipment. To prevent unsupervised access to pools, place 4-foot fencing on all sides of the pool, install self-locking self-latching gates, and use motion alarms, covers, and door locks. If a young child is missing, check the water first. DCHD also educates families on the prevention of drowning due to **suction entrapment** by teaching children to **avoid suction outlet drain covers** in pools, spas, and whirlpool tubs.

In 2020, we provided **Pool Safely Partner Kit** boxes to 100 swimming facilities, childcare centers and community-based organizations in the DuPage County area. In addition, 4,000 of our Pool Safely adult "Water Watcher" packs were distributed through food banks in DuPage County earlier this spring.

Please respond by email or phone by June 30th to indicate your interest in participating in the first annual Pool Safely Day in Illinois on Thursday July 15, 2021 and to register for your digital Pool Safely Day kit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Laura Carlin Cochran, MPH.  
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