

# June, 2011: A Drop of News from CDC's Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch



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## Greetings

*A Drop of News is a forum for highlighting state and local public health activities related to waterborne diseases and outbreaks and for sharing informal updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) programs about waterborne diseases, outbreaks, and other water-related disease prevention initiatives.*

*A Drop of News returns with information about recreational water topics and activities just in time for summer 2011.*

Look for a description of the Healthy Swimming Video Contest on page 2. Consider participating or sharing contest information with organizations in your community. Find out more about the Healthy Swimming Program's new resources on animals and pools (page 2), public health concerns about the practice of fish pedicures (page 3), and ways to get more involved with the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC; page 3).

Don't forget to contact us at [NORSWater@cdc.gov](mailto:NORSWater@cdc.gov) if you have an idea for a future article (page 4)! To catch up on all the news from previous issues, go online: [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/statistics/wbdoss/drop\\_of\\_news](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/statistics/wbdoss/drop_of_news).

## Actions and Alerts

- CDC worked with numerous partners to prepare for Recreational Water Illness and Injury (RWII) Prevention Week 2011 (May 23<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup>). The 2011 theme was Swimmer's Ear. For more information about this theme and to access RWII prevention materials for the 2011 swimming season, visit the Healthy Water website's RWII Prevention Week page: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/rwi/rwi-prevention-week/>.
- The deadline to comment on the Ventilation and Air Quality Module of the MAHC is June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. See page 3 for more information!

### ***Mark your Calendars!***

CSTE Annual Conference: June 12–16

WASH Webinar: July 20, 2011

## CDC's First-Ever Healthy Swimming Video Contest

CDC's Healthy Swimming Program invites you<sup>1</sup> to make a short, creative video that promotes the simple steps everyone can take to ensure healthy swimming:

**The winner will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, courtesy of the CDC Foundation!**

**The winning video will also be available for thousands to see on CDC's Healthy Swimming website ([www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming)) and CDC's YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/CDCStreamingHealth>).**

### **Video Contest Details**

The video may be anything you want—a sketch, dance, song, slideshow, or whatever format you choose—as long as it is appropriate for all audiences and follows the contest guidelines posted on the Healthy Swimming 2011 Video Contest website (<http://healthyswimming.challenge.gov>).

You have from May 16<sup>th</sup>–July 4<sup>th</sup> to submit your video. Once the video submission period is over, the top videos (chosen by a panel of judges) will be posted on CDC's YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/CDCStreamingHealth>) for the public voting from July 18<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>. The winner will be announced on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **June Calendar:**

Go to <http://healthyswimming.challenge.gov> to learn about CDC's Healthy Swimming 2011 Video Contest and **submit your video by July 4<sup>th</sup>**.

### **July Calendar:**

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Submit your video! This is CDC's Healthy Swimming Video Contest deadline.

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<sup>1</sup> The contest is open to U.S. citizens, including public health professionals who do not work at CDC or do not have family members who work at CDC.

July 18<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup>: Go to <http://www.youtube.com/CDCStreamingHealth> to see the top videos and vote for your favorite!

July 25<sup>th</sup>: Go to [www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming) to see the winning video.

## Animals and Pools

The Healthy Swimming Program is pleased to announce the addition of three new webpages that focus on animals in and around pools: **Raccoons and Pools**, **Finding a Dead Animal in the Pool**, and **Birds and Pools**. The pages were created based on the high volume of questions that the Healthy Swimming Program receives on these topics.

Access these resources at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/animals/>. We hope that they will be beneficial to the public and will be helpful when you receive inquiries about animals in and around pools.

Please feel free to contact the Healthy Swimming Program with additional inquiries by emailing [HealthySwimming@cdc.gov](mailto:HealthySwimming@cdc.gov).

## Fish Pedicures... Food for Thought?

*Submitted by Brendan Jackson (CDC)*

Since 2008, some U.S. salons have begun offering “fish pedicures,” in which toothless “doctor fish,” as the species *Garra rufa* is popularly known, are placed into footbaths where they consume dead skin on the feet of customers. Multiple U.S. states have banned the practice. Most of the state bans are based on at least one of the following reasons:

- The tanks cannot be sufficiently disinfected or sanitized between users when the fish are present.
- The fish cannot be disinfected or sanitized between users and owners are unlikely to limit the fish to one user due to cost.
- Fish pedicures do not meet the statutory definition of a pedicure.
- Animals, including fish, are prohibited from salons or any fish at a salon must be in an aquarium.
- The fish must be starved to eat skin, which might be considered animal cruelty.

There have been no published reports to date regarding illness from fish pedicures; however fish-free footbaths in nail salons have been implicated in several outbreaks of nontuberculous mycobacterial infections, including the species *Mycobacterium abscessus* and *M. fortuitum* among others<sup>1</sup>. Outside the US, the Health Protection Agency of the United Kingdom recently announced that a review of the practice is underway. CDC would like to thank the following partners for sharing their resources and experiences with this issue: the Florida Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Health, the Alexandria (VA) Health Department, the Mendocino Sacramento County (CA) Health Department, and Health Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> Vugia DJ, Jang Y, Zizek C, Ely J, Winthrop KL, Desmond E. Mycobacteria in nail salon whirlpool footbaths, California. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 11(4)/ 2005 Apr. Accessed 03May2011. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol11no04/04-0936.htm>

## Jump into the Model Aquatic Health Code!

Providing a model code based on the latest science, the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) strives to keep swimming a healthful activity and protect individuals, families, and communities from preventable waterborne diseases and injuries.

Swimming season is coming up! Is your jurisdiction involved in the MAHC? The MAHC is a collaborative effort of public health, academia, and the aquatics industry. The MAHC steering committee encourages stakeholder involvement. Please consider the following opportunities to learn more and get involved:

- Each newly posted MAHC module has a short synopsis highlighting the most critical recommendations: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/structure-content/abstracts.html>
- A new “MAHC In the News” feature has webinars, a magazine, and other MAHC news items published by external groups: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/inthenews.html>
- The Ventilation and Air Quality module is open for public comment through June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Visit the following website for more information: <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/structure-content/#table>
- The Operator Training module has been updated and reposted following the first round of public comments. Please consider using this module as a resource if your jurisdiction is updating its pool code. Additional comments will be solicited after all of the MAHC modules have been completed. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/pools/mahc/structure-content/#table>

To receive automatic email updates from CDC’s Healthy Swimming Program on the MAHC and other swimming-related topics, please visit the Healthy Swimming Program website at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/> and click the “Get email updates” box on the right hand side of the page.

*Editor’s note: You can learn more about the history and purpose of the MAHC in the November 2008 issue.*

## Tell Us All About It!

Have you recently....

- completed a waterborne disease outbreak investigation?
- worked on a WASH-focused research project?
- implemented a new health promotion campaign?
- released new waterborne disease prevention educational resources?
- published a WASH-related article in a peer-reviewed journal?
- presented at a conference?

Please contact us to find out how to share the information with newsletter readers or with your peers through the WASH Webinar series! See below for contact information!

## Contact Us

CDC is available to provide assistance regarding waterborne disease outbreaks and illnesses. Please contact us to report an outbreak or to request information about waterborne illnesses related to drinking water, recreational water and other water uses. State health departments can also contact CDC to obtain epidemiologic and laboratory assistance for waterborne disease outbreak investigations. Additional resources are available for recreational water inquiries and outbreaks involving *Legionella*.

**Phone: 404.639.1700**

**Fax: 770.488.7761**

Waterborne Disease & Outbreak Surveillance Coordinator  
Waterborne Disease Prevention Branch  
Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases  
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Atlanta, GA

**Training and resources for reporting waterborne disease outbreaks to CDC via the electronic National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS):**

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/statistics/wbdoss/nors/index.html>

**Healthy Water website:** <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/>

**Outbreak Response Toolkits:** <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/toolkit/index.html>

### ***Legionella:***

**All travel-associated Legionnaires' disease cases** should be reported directly to the *Legionella* team by emailing [travellegionella@cdc.gov](mailto:travellegionella@cdc.gov) or by sending a completed Legionellosis case report form within the seven days following state notification to CDC 1600 Clifton Road MS C-23 Atlanta, GA 30333, Attn: *Legionella* Team. **All legionellosis cases and outbreaks that are not associated with travel** may be reported by sending completed case report forms to the above address within one month of state notification or as soon as possible thereafter. Case report forms and *Legionella* information can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/legionella>. **Contact information for additional questions, including assistance with outbreak investigations:** [travellegionella@cdc.gov](mailto:travellegionella@cdc.gov), 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

*Please also report outbreaks of legionellosis in NORS when the outbreak investigation has been completed (see links to training and other resources for NORS at left).*

Please contact [NORSWater@cdc.gov](mailto:NORSWater@cdc.gov) to submit content or suggestions for *A Drop of News* or the WASH Webinar series.