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May 27, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Health Department Reminds Residents to Pool Safely this Summer

DUPAGE COUNTY— As the Memorial Day weekend approaches and the summer swimming season begins, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) reminds residents to stay vigilant and Pool Safely by practicing simple water safety steps to keep children safe when they are in or around the water this season.

Drowning continues to be the leading cause of unintentional death for children under the age of five and the second leading cause for children ages 5 to 9. Already this year, two Illinois children, a two-year-old boy and a three-year-old boy, fatally drowned in open water in March. Last year, according to news media reports, eight Illinois children fatally drowned between June 1 and August 16, 2020, in backyard swimming pools or open water. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that an additional 18 children per day are treated for non-fatal drowning submersion injuries in hospitals across the nation.

To keep children safe, parents and caregivers can follow Pool Safely's [simple steps](#):

- Never leave a child unattended in or near water. Designate a focused adult Water Watcher to supervise children who are swimming.
- Teach children how to swim. Infant, child, adult, group, and adapted swim lessons are offered at pools throughout our region.
- Ensure that any pool or spa/hot tub that you use has drain covers that meet federal safety standards. If you're not sure, ask your pool service provider for details.
- Avoid entrapment by teaching children to stay away from pool drains and pipes. Keep long hair, bathing suit straps, and drawstrings away from drains.
- Install a four-sided fence with a self-closing, self-latching gate around all pools and spas.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.

Established in 1945, DuPage County Health Department promotes physical and emotional health; prevents illness injury and disability; protects health from environmental risk factors, and strives to assure the provision of accessible, quality service.

**-More-
STAY SAFE
DUPAGE**



In 2021, DCHD was awarded a second federal grant from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Through the Pool Safely 10M initiative, DCHD aims to prevent child drowning through regional education, awareness, and professional training.

Before the long weekend, make a water safety plan and take the Pool Safely [Pledge](#) to protect children in your family and your community. Together, we can prevent child drownings all year long.

For more information, visit www.dupagehealth.org/231/Pool-Safely.

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