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MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Massachusetts Local Boards of Health

**FROM:** Steven Hughes, Director  
Community Sanitation Program

**DATE:** June 8, 2009

**RE:** Recreational Camps for Children Brochure and other Related Recreational Camp Material

The MDPH Bureau of Environmental Health's Community Sanitation Program (CSP), which regulates 105 CMR 430.000 Minimum Sanitation and Safety Standards for Recreational Camps for Children, is providing copies of the following documents to be distributed to ALL 2009 recreational camp operators licensed in your city or town:

- The MDPH guidance document entitled "Camp Professionals: What you need to know about H1N1 (swine flu)";
- The U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance document entitled "Extreme Heat: A Prevention Guide to Promote Your Personal Health and Safety". This information, particularly how to identify and successfully treat heat related illness, should be incorporated into each camp's orientation plan according to the requirements of 105 CMR 430.091;
- Four (4) MDPH Bureau of Communicable Disease Control, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization guidance documents
  - "Meningococcal Disease and Camp Attendees: Commonly Asked Questions" which is **required** to be distributed to all parents or guardians of camp attendees at the time of initial enrollment;
  - "Preventing Rabies Exposures: Guidelines for Recreational Camps";
  - "Is Your Summer Camp Bat Proof?";
  - "Capturing a Bat: What you need and How to Do It"; and
- A "Camper Injury Report Form", pursuant to 105 CMR 430.154.

In addition, please find copies of the 2007 MDPH brochure entitled "Information about Recreational Camps in Massachusetts: *Questions and Answers for Parents*". This brochure is designed to help parents make informative decisions when choosing a camp for their children. The information derived from these questions should help empower parents to both understand camp operating requirements and to select a camp that is appropriate for their children. The brochure provides information on a wide variety of camp related topics including helpful referrals for more information on abuse prevention and counseling, as well as guidance on the application of insect repellents. We hope the brochure will help ensure that attending a recreational camp is a safe, healthy and wonderful experience for children.

Please provide a copy of this brochure to any parents inquiring about recreational camps in your city or town. Additionally, please post a copy of the brochure on any bulletin boards outside your office, town hall, library and any other locations where the information may be readily accessed by the general public.

You may obtain additional copies of the Recreational Camps Brochure by contacting the CSP at: (617) 624-5757. All of the documents, including the brochure, are available to be downloaded and copied from the "Camps – Recreational" section on the CSP website: <http://www.mass.gov/dph/dcs>. Links to the Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet and Recreational Camps Brochure are also located in the "Related Links" section on the website.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and assistance.