

## The Model Aquatic Health Code Network



### Introduction

The purpose of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) Network is to foster a community of state and local MAHC users, subject matter experts, and those seeking implementation support. The MAHC Network is designed to achieve the following:

- Increase awareness, peer-to-peer networking, and use of MAHC among health departments;
- Share challenges and successes from health departments;
- Expand use of the MAHC among states and localities; and
- Provide resources to help local and state health departments use the code.

### Background

Recreational water activities provide ways for Americans to get the physical activity and recreation necessary for a healthy life. Adults and children swim hundreds of millions of times in pools, hot tubs, and spas each year and most people have a safe and healthy time enjoying the water.

However, swimming in public pools or other aquatic facilities that are not clean or safe can lead to drowning, injury from pool chemicals, or waterborne illness. Health department leaders and staff should be aware of the following:

- Outbreaks of recreational water illnesses have increased significantly over the last several decades.
- Drowning is a leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1–14, second only to motor vehicle crashes.
- Injuries from pool chemicals account for almost 5,000 emergency department visits each year.

### How the MAHC can Help

To assist state and local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed the MAHC, which integrates the latest knowledge and best practices in preventing recreational water illnesses, drowning, and chemical poisoning.

The MAHC includes specific code language and explanatory materials covering the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, and other public disinfected aquatic facilities.

As a result, local and state agencies needing to create or update swimming pool and spa codes, rules, regulations, guidance, laws, or standards can now use the MAHC as a resource to improve health and safety while conserving valuable time and resources previously used to write or update code language.



# [FACT SHEET]

April 2016



## Member Benefits

Members of the MAHC Network will have access to the following:

- A discussion list with subject matter experts and health department peers;
- Bimonthly webinars on a variety of MAHC topics and resources that reflect member concerns and interests; and
- An interactive online toolkit featuring resources to help create aquatic codes.

Through these tools, members can do the following:

- Discuss MAHC implementation obstacles and successes with other members;
- Help develop new resources by providing feedback and input; and
- Ask questions and seek advice about MAHC implementation.

## Learn More about the MAHC

For more information about the Network and to enroll, e-mail [mahcnet@naccho.org](mailto:mahcnet@naccho.org).

- To learn more about the code, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mahc/>.
- View the MAHC Network webpage with tools and resources at <http://www.naccho.org/programs/environmental-health/hazards/water/model-aquatic-health-code-mahc-network>.
- Key partners in this effort include the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; the Council for the Model Aquatic Health Code; and the National Environmental Health Association.

## Acknowledgments

This document was made possible through support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Cooperative Agreement #5U38OT000172-03. NACCHO is grateful for this support. The views expressed within do not necessarily represent those of the sponsor.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

**Kelsey Edge, MPH**

Program Analyst, Environmental Health  
202-463-8096  
[kedge@naccho.org](mailto:kedge@naccho.org)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Up to one in eight public pools and one in nine public spas were closed because of immediately pressing health issues.
- 68% of local health departments have public pool inspection programs.
- The MAHC provides science-based practices health departments can use to reduce risk of outbreaks, drowning, and chemical poisoning in their communities.

**NACCHO**

National Association of County & City Health Officials

*The National Connection for Local Public Health*



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice with local health departments.

1100 17th St, NW, 7th Floor Washington, DC 20036

P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

© 2015. National Association of County and City Health Officials.

[www.naccho.org](http://www.naccho.org)