

March 2012 | Volume 6 Issue 3.2

**April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month** - The US Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau has resources targeted specifically for service providers who work with parents, other caregivers, and children with the common goal of strengthening families. Their [Website](#) provides resources to promote community awareness of important protective factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect, including tip sheets for parents in English and Spanish. These resources were developed with input from numerous national organizations, federal partners, and parents committed to strengthening families. YMCAs can use this information as a great way to include youth protection activities in **YMCA Healthy Kid's Day**.

**The draft of the Disinfection & Water Quality Module of the Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) has been posted** by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for public comment. Disinfection and water quality are critical components in maintaining bather health and comfort. Health issues related to inadequate disinfection and poor water quality are increasingly being documented. Outbreak investigations have often determined that disinfectant levels and other water quality parameters were not maintained appropriately thereby allowing disinfectant-sensitive pathogens to be associated with pool use. The emergence of chlorine-tolerant microbes also necessitates changing accepted standards for pool treatment to protect the health of bathers in the future. The Disinfection and Water Quality Module takes the first steps in addressing these recurring and emerging aquatic health issues. The draft module can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

**Seven Common EPL Questions and Answers are reviewed** in a recent publication authored by Don Phin in an Innovative Workplace article from Rough Notes Inc. Phin addresses issues that have been commonly discussed in his 10+ years of HR hotline calls. Common questions include: how to deal with an employee with reoccurring sickness and poor attendance, dealing with a sexual discrimination complaint, addressing poor performance with an older employee and how to terminate an employee. Read more [HERE](#).

**A webinar for YMCAs on preventing child sexual abuse is available** on the [YMCA Exchange Website](#) until March 23. Richard Dangel, Ph.D., President and CEO of Praesidium, Inc., discusses trends in child safety, challenges facing youth-serving organizations and practices that Ys can implement to protect kids. The 55-minute webinar also includes an update on the Child Protection Improvements Act, which would ensure timely and affordable access to FBI background checks, and an overview of Y-USA's resources for local associations.

**OSHA has posted a series of videos to help workers learn about the proper use of respirators** on the job. These short videos, in English and Spanish, provide valuable information to employees such as those working with some pool chemicals and filter medium. The clips are available with closed captioning for streaming or download from [OSHA's Web site](#). OSHA's Safety and Health topics page on [Respiratory Protection](#) also includes additional training materials, information about occupational respiratory hazards and details of OSHA's [Respiratory Protection Standard](#).

**National Recreational Water Illness and Injury (RWII) Prevention week** is May 21-27, 2012. Each year, RWI Prevention Week focuses on simple steps swimmers and pool operators can take to ensure a healthy and safe swimming experience for everyone. This year, the theme for RWI Prevention week is *Drowning Prevention and Health Communication to Promote Healthy Swimming*. Now is the time to plan events at your facility or in your community and prepare to distribute information such as [posters](#) on RWI prevention. More information is available [HERE](#).

### **This Month's Topics:**

*Child Abuse Prevention Month*  
*Model Aquatic Health Code Update*  
*Employment Practices Tips*  
*YMCA Child Abuse Prevention Webinar*  
*Respiratory Protection Information*  
*Recreational Water Illness Prevention*