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Is it time to replace your pool drain covers? The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act (VGBA) was enacted by Congress in December 2007 and became law a year later in December 2008. VGBA was designed to prevent the hazard of drain entrapments and eviscerations in pools and spas. Operators have been challenged with compliance since the law's effective date. Most pools now comply with the standards. However compliance is not a one-time effort. Because the drain covers have a limited life-span many may need to be replaced in 2014. Most drain covers have a dated stamp on them. While there is no requirement in the Act that there be a specific marking on drain covers, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has asked manufacturers to mark them "VGB 2008." Some drain covers manufactured during the summer of 2008 used the ASME symbol and/or the "ASME/ANSI A112.19.8" mark. The drain cover manufacturer should provide a certification document with each drain cover stating that it complies with the requirements of the VGB Act. Your manufacturer, installer or service contractor should also be able to identify the replacement dated needed for compliant covers. If there is no mark or you are otherwise in doubt, contact the manufacturer and ask for a copy of the certificate. Read more on the VGBA at [Pool Safely](#) and on compliance at the [CPSC](#).

Child Care and Camp programs cannot deny diabetic children from attending their programs due to most medication concerns. Federal laws provide protection for children with disabilities from discrimination. State laws often impact whether non-nursing staff at child care or other programs can provide insulin injections and emergency glucagon injections. These provisions take the form of laws, regulations, or state Board of Nursing policies or guidelines and enable staff at programs to meet the needs of children with diabetes. Parents and program leaders should work together to ensure that a child with diabetes can safely and equally enjoy the program. Every [state has laws](#) that affect who can provide diabetes care. The American Diabetes Association (ADA) has [more information](#) and [training resources](#) to help develop program participation health management plans.

Young workers are more likely to get injured at work. Every nine seconds a young American worker is injured on the job, making employees under 25 twice as likely to get hurt at work. Staff training and orientation, especially about safety and accident prevention, is essential for all organizations. With high rates of young worker injuries it is important that summer programs, which traditionally employ young staff, to spend time helping them to stay safe. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has a section of their [Website](#) dedicated to helping keep younger employees from harm. Find resources and information [HERE](#).

Did you see this in the last E-news:

Preventing Recreational Water Illnesses Helps Keep Pools Open. As many pools open for the season there will likely be high bather loads as people in your community celebrate warmer weather. Taking three hours of your time to make sure you are prepared for potential illness outbreaks is the difference between a potentially difficult season and a fulfilling one. The National Swimming Pool Foundation ([NSPF](#)) offers a Recreational Water Illnesses (RWI) Prevention Online Course. RWIs can cause a wide variety of symptoms, including gastrointestinal, skin, ear, respiratory, eye, neurologic, and wound infections. This course is intended to help professionals understand and prevent these often serious illnesses. The course also includes a 114-page handbook. Read more [HERE](#).

Prevent tick bites when enjoying the outdoors - Ticks can be more than just a nuisance to staff and participants - they can cause serious illnesses, including Lyme Disease. OSHA has resource information on protecting people from tick hazards as well as other risks that can be expected when spending time outdoors. Check out the "[Working Outdoors in Warm Climates](#)" fact sheet.

Safety breaks at pools can help prevent aquatic incidents. Implementing hourly break periods (5-10 minutes) during recreation swims is encouraged by the Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) to help reduce fecal accidents and incidence of recreational water illnesses ([RWIs](#)) by allowing time for youth to use restrooms. During these breaks the entire pool is cleared of swimmers for the rest period. These breaks can also help maintain lifeguard alertness by giving guards time to regroup, refresh and rotate positions. Other benefits include encouraging all staff and swimmers at outdoor pools to use the time to hydrate, apply sunscreen and for groups to ensure all members are accounted for. More information on summer pool safety is available [HERE](#).

This Month's Topics:

Pool Drain Cover Expiration
Including Diabetic Children in Programs
Teen Worker Injury Prevention
Recreational Water Illness Prevention
Protecting From Tick Exposures
Summer Aquatic Safety