

September 2017 | Volume 11 Issue 9.1

Flu Update: A Message for Caregivers & Teachers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) the vaccine for the 2017-2018 flu season has been updated to better match circulating flu viruses. The CDC recommends vaccination with an injectable flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older before the end of October, if possible. Though flu seasons vary in their timing from season to season, getting vaccinated by the end of October helps ensure that staff, children, and parents are protected before flu activity begins to increase in their community. With school back in session, there are important steps that child care providers and programs can take to protect children from flu-related illness. Now is the time to prepare for next flu season. Update your program's family contact information and child records, so parents can be reached quickly if they need to pick up their sick child. Examine and revise your child care programs written plan for seasonal flu. Schedule flu prevention education for program staff. Review policies on immunizations, hand washing; cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces and toys; and excluding (sending home) children who are sick. Consider displaying [educational materials](#) to encourage vaccination, good hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette. Help families understand the important roles they can play in reducing the spread of flu. Plan to distribute a [customized letter](#) to parents about flu prevention and control practices in your program. Consider requiring flu vaccine for all child care workers and children who attend child care, even if your state does not require it. This will not only help to prevent flu infection, but it will also reduce the spread within the classroom. Click [HERE](#) for more information on flu prevention from the CDC.

School Transportation Safety. Time to kick off another exciting and fun-filled school year, and as always safety should be the first lesson. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ([NHTSA](#)), from 2006 to 2015 there were 301 school-age children (18 and younger) killed and thousands more injured in school transportation-related crashes. It is important to share a few simple tips with kids to help them stay safe when traveling to and from school. School buses are the safest way for children to travel to and from school. However, there are dangers when children are [boarding and leaving](#) the bus. Over the last decade, nearly two-thirds of school-age pedestrians fatally injured in school transportation-related crashes were struck by school buses or other vehicles when getting on or off a school bus. Teach children to always play it **SAFE**; **S**tay five steps away from the curb. **A**lways wait for the bus driver to tell you when to board. **F**ace forward after finding a seat on the bus. **E**xit the bus when it stops, look left-right-left, and take five steps away from the bus toward the curb. Walking to school is great exercise. Children under 10 years old should be accompanied by an adult or someone who will make sure they walk safely. Teach children to always use the sidewalk whenever possible, and if there isn't a sidewalk, walk on the edge of the street facing traffic. Focus when walking near traffic – this is no time for horseplay. Use crosswalks whenever they are available to cross the street. Look left-right-left before crossing any street. With the start of every new school year, remember that the conversation about safety never gets old. Click [HERE](#) for additional transportation safety resources located on the [Safe-Wise resource library](#).

National Preparedness Month. This September, [Ready.gov](#) launches its National Preparedness Month ([NPM](#)) campaign focusing on planning, with an overarching theme “Disasters Don’t Plan Ahead. You Can.” The goal of NPM is to increase the overall number of individuals, families, and communities that engage in preparedness actions at home, work, business, school, and place of worship. The NPM Social Media tool kit contains key marketing and preparedness messaging to print or share on your social media channels. Click [HERE](#) for more detailed information from Ready.gov on how you can help take action to prepare!

Pool Lift Maintenance. Swimming pool accessibility has become a critical issue for recreational aquatic facilities throughout the U.S. due to a 2010 [amendment](#) to the Americans with Disabilities Act ([ADA](#)), requiring that public pools be made accessible to all. The last step in compliance with the ADA law, is the maintenance aspect of accessibility. While sloped entries and transfer walls are ways to meet ADA requirements, often pool lifts that assist users in and out of the pool are the easiest and most affordable solution to retrofit an [existing pool](#) for accessibility. To keep your lift in good working order, always follow instructions in the owner’s manual and on product labels. All lifts have some common elements that should be maintained on a regular basis; Seats should be kept clean and seat belts should be checked to make sure they lock properly. The structure of the lift should also be inspected to make sure there is no corrosion building on the surface. Hardware, such as nuts and bolts, should also be inspected for signs of corrosion. For battery powered lifts, the most important item to maintain is the battery. Batteries should be fully charged daily. They should never be allowed to fully discharge, as this could damage the battery or reduce its life span. It is a good practice to keep the battery on its charger when the lift is not in use. If the lift has any operating gears, they should be inspected for any signs of corrosion. The gears should be lubricated periodically and protected with a rust inhibitor. Any other moving parts should be inspected and lubricated as needed. Many pool companies are getting involved in providing preventative maintenance programs for lifts. It’s makes sense that if you spend thousands of dollars on an asset, you want to make sure that the asset not only works well and is safe, but also lasts. This is not only common sense, it’s the law. The ADA regulations require that any equipment used to provide accessibility must be maintained in proper operating condition. Don’t be caught with your lift down, ensure you have a plan for proper preventative care and maintenance of your pool lift.

Blog: Click [HERE](#) for our latest blog: **The Importance of Training New Employees**

Did you see this in the last E-news?

Federal Background Check Requirements for Child Care Providers. According to the Office of the Administration for Children and Families ([ACF](#)) the reauthorized Child Care and Development Block Grant ([CCDBG](#)) act contains new background check requirements for child care providers. Click [HERE](#) for more information and additional resources from the ACF on the CCDBG act and how these requirements may apply to your organization.