

Happy Holidays!

Safe-Wise Consulting wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

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What does HIPAA mean for your organization? The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ([HIPAA](#)) of 1996 is a US Law that sets data privacy and security standards for the safeguarding of protected health information ([PHI](#)). There are five sections called Titles, and the most relevant from a security perspective is Title II which gives the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ([HHS](#)) the power to establish national standards for the health care industry when processing electronic transactions. Title II also requires health care organizations to secure electronic access to PHI to remain in compliance. If your organization delivers programs like or similar to a Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) recognized [lifestyle change program](#) or Diabetes Prevention Program ([DPP](#)), all employees, consultants and contractors involved in this important work are subject to HIPAA. To be in compliance with HIPAA, identified employees, consultants and contractors must complete certain [HIPAA privacy and security trainings](#). Click [HERE](#) for HIPAA FAQ's for Professional from HHS.

National Influenza Vaccination Week. This year, National Influenza Vaccination Week ([NIVW](#)) takes place December 3-9, 2017. NIVW highlights the importance of continuing flu vaccination through the holiday season and beyond. Vaccination is the best way to prevent flu! As long as flu viruses are spreading and causing illness, vaccination can still provide protection against flu. Most of the time, flu activity peaks between December and February in the United States, although activity can last as late as May. Flu activity is expected to increase in the coming weeks; the sooner you get vaccinated, the more likely you are to be protected against flu when activity picks up in your community. View the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's ([CDC](#)) [influenza summary map](#) for a weekly update on flu activity in the United States. Click [HERE](#) for a list of NIVW activities and [HERE](#) for a media toolkit available through the CDC.

Safety Leadership: The risks with routine. Achieving and sustaining an injury-free workplace demands strong leadership. In a November 2017, [Safety & Health Magazine](#) monthly column, experts [Susan L. Koen](#) and [Jill Wiltfong](#) from global consulting firm [DEKRA Insight](#) share their point of view on what leaders need to know to guide their organizations to safety excellence. Koen is an expert on human reliability, workplace fatigue and high-performing work systems. In this Q&A, Koen, the CEO and founder of [Round the Clock Resources Inc.](#), reveals why performing the same tasks time and time again can contribute to failing to recognize changes and the associated risks. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

New Resource: Zone Coverage / Surveillance Plan Considerations. Aquatic facilities should establish a lifeguard(s) [zone coverage / surveillance plan](#). This plan details the specific areas of scanning responsibility for an on-duty lifeguard. When establishing a zone coverage / surveillance plan ensure that:

- All areas of the water (bottom, middle, and top) are covered and can be seen by a lifeguard
- There is overlapping coverage when more than one lifeguard is performing surveillance
- Lifeguards have clear, unobstructed views of their zones
- The size and shape of each zone is appropriate for the facility and allow for appropriate response times

Facilities should post diagrams or charts showing the size, shape and boundaries of each zone. These can change throughout the day and season, depending on the number of patrons, types and variety of activities, time of day and environmental conditions, such as glare from the sun. Click [HERE](#) to view the full Zone Coverage / Surveillance Plan Considerations document available on the [Resource Library](#).

Did you see this in the last E-news?

New Service: Certified Playground Safety Inspector. Did you know? According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)), it is estimated that each year over 205,850 injuries occur on playgrounds and approximately fifteen children will die from playground related injuries. Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI) help promote children's rights to play and promotes nationally the importance play has to a child's development through playground hazard identification and risk management methods. Safe-Wise Consulting is proud to offer [Certified Playground Safety Inspector](#) services. Services include development of a comprehensive Playground Safety Policy, Safety Audit, Safety Coordinator training, assistance with development of a site history file, and on-site staff playground inspection training. We can help you, help our children by designing, installing, and maintaining safe playgrounds. Contact us [HERE](#) for more information.

Sexual Harassment is the title of a recent [article](#) from the Nonprofit Risk Management Center ([NRMC](#)). The article reminds us that Nonprofits are not exempt from sexual harassment claims like those recently in the news for business firms and public agencies. A nonprofit can be held liable for a hostile work environment if it knew, or reasonably should have known, of the conditions or activities and failed to take corrective action. Policies, procedures and training can help shield your organization from liability. They can establish a forum for open communication at an early stage so that a misunderstanding or insensitivity can be corrected before it explodes into a legal complaint. Not only may policies avoid costly litigation, they may prevent escalation to more serious assaults. The policies, however, must be effective. The article goes on to offer the following suggestions that can help you develop appropriate policies and procedures. Start at the top. The board of directors plays an important role in eliminating sexual harassment. Click [HERE](#) to continue reading on our blog.