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October is National Bullying Prevention Month. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) bullying is one type of youth violence that threatens young people's well-being. Bullying can result in physical injuries, social and emotional difficulties, and academic problems. The harmful effects of bullying are frequently felt by others, including friends and families, and can hurt the overall health and safety of schools, neighborhoods, and society. Bullying is a form of child abuse. Every October, schools and organizations across the country join [STOMP Out Bullying™](#) in observing National Bullying Prevention Month. The goal: encourage communities to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of bullying on all children of all ages. A month of anti-bullying activities! A month of action! This is your month to take leadership at your organization and carry it through all-year-round! The more awareness that is created during the month of October, and all year round, puts us one step closer to putting an end to bullying! Additional Bullying Prevention Month resources can be found at the [Pacer Center](#) Champions for Children with Disabilities, [National Bully Prevention Center](#) website, and on [stopbullying.gov](#).

MAHC Network, Tools, & Forms. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) Model Aquatic Health Code ([MAHC](#)) [Network, Tools, & Forms](#) page includes networks, tools, and forms for use by public health officials and aquatics sector personnel working on implementing MAHC-specific or other aquatic health and safety programs. These tools include investigation forms, applications, reporting forms, and MAHC-specific checklists. They are posted as editable documents so users can customize them to meet their specific needs. If you have ideas about other needed tools to assist with MAHC-related work, email MAHC@cdc.gov.

Membership / Guest Screening. Summer is over and school is back in session. Soon your community will be heading back indoors for fall programming and your hallways will be full of young community members again. Now is a good time to review and update your membership and visitor screening practices. This practice is an important layer of protection to help decrease the risk of abuse. Does your organization check **all** members, guests, staff and contractors into the facility? Do you always know who is in your building? Do visitors sign-in and wear a name tag identifying them? Does your organization conduct a national sex offender registry check on everyone who enters your facilities? No one should have unauthorized access to youth or be in the facility or program areas without acceptable identification (government issued photo ID, EG: Driver's license) and permission. Best practice is to conduct a [national sex offender registry check](#) on **everyone** accessing your facility and have established procedures for responding when you find someone on the list. The practice of membership and visitor screening is also a good deterrent to potential predators who are looking for easy access to children. Sex offender registry checks should be repeated on at least the same schedule as staff criminal background checks. Click [HERE](#) for additional child abuse prevention resources located on the [Safe-Wise Resource Library](#).

Recall Alert: Cybex Recalls Weight-Lifting Equipment Due to Serious Injury

Hazards. This [recall](#) involves the [Cybex Smith Press](#) model 5340, manufactured and distributed from 1989 through 1993, and model 5341, manufactured and distributed from 1993 through 2009. The weight bar can fall, posing serious injury hazards to the user. Consumers should immediately stop using the weight-lifting equipment and [contact Cybex](#) for instructions on how to receive a free repair for model 5341 or a credit or refund of the current value for model 5340.

Did you see this in the last E-news?

Back to School Cyber Safety. The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team ([US-CERT](#)) reminds us that as summer break ends, many students will return to school with mobile devices, such as smart phones, tablets, and laptops. Although these devices can help students with their schoolwork and stay in touch with family and friends, there are risks associated with using them. However, there are simple steps that can help keep students stay safe while using their mobile devices and getting online. The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center ([NCCIC](#)) suggests reviewing the following tips and resources for information to keep students cyber safe:

- [Keeping Children Safe Online](#)
- [Rethink Cyber Safety Rules and the “Tech Talk” with Your Teens](#)
- [Building a Digital Defense for School Kids and Cell Phone Safety](#)
- [Stop.Think.Connect. Toolkit](#)
- [Stay Safe Online](#)
- [Concerned Parent’s Internet Safety Toolbox](#)

Flu Update: A Message for Caregivers & Teachers. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([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. 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.