



# SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

**Swimming is one of the most popular water sports in the United States. In San Bernardino County alone, there are about 3,000 public pools and spas, several waterslides, lakes and lagoons, plus many private backyard pools.**

## *Did you know?*

- San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Services (DEHS) inspects public swimming areas for health hazards.
- These areas include swimming pools, spas, lakes, lagoons and waterslides located at apartment complexes, health clubs, hotels, motels, homeowner associations, schools, organized camps, and municipal parks.
- Murky, green pools not only pose a drowning risk for children, but can also produce mosquitoes that can carry and transmit diseases such as malaria, encephalitis and West Nile Virus. To prevent mosquito breeding, the pool pump and filter must be operating. Maintaining proper chemical levels is also essential.
- Swimming with diarrhea, a cough, cold sore or bandages could be a hazard for other swimmers.
- Water can be contaminated with bacteria that cause illness and disease such as hepatitis, dysentery and cholera.
- All bathers are at risk when they swim in the contaminated water.
- Bacteria can enter water by dust, leaves, wind, rain, people and animals.
- Water not kept in proper chemical balance could cause eye and skin irritation to swimmers and damage to pool equipment.
- Keeping your pool/spa covered when not in use can conserve water and helps to keep the pool cleaner. Public pools using covers must have DEHS approval before they can be installed.

## *Water safety facts*

- California has the most pools per capita than any other state
- Drowning is the leading cause of death in children under 5 years of age
- Public and private pools must be completely surrounded by a proper enclosure
- An emergency number, such as **9-1-1**, must be posted
- Children under the age of 14 must not swim without adult supervision
- Public swimming areas must have safety equipment including a life hook, life ring, and first aid kit
- Pregnant women, elderly people and infants should not use a hot tub/spa without consulting a physician

