

Health Unit Media Release

For immediate release: June 29, 2009



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY

Summer holidays for school children have begun. Many public swimming pools have opened for the summer season. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit would like to remind parents to be aware that although swimming pools are a great way to cool off and get exercise in the hot weather, it is essential that parents accompany their children to public pools to ensure their safety.

The Office of the Coroner has developed **ADMISSION STANDARDS FOR PUBLIC POOLS** that apply to pools supervised by lifeguards. Children under the age of 10 who are **non-swimmers** must be directly supervised by their parents or a guardian who is at least 12 years old. **The Coroner further limits the number of non swimmers a parent or guardian can supervise to 4 bathers. If these non-swimmers wear life jackets, the number can increase to 8.** Children under the age of 6 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian with a maximum of 2 children per parent. This means that children cannot be dropped off at a lifeguard supervised pool on their own.

Families visiting unsupervised pools such as those found in campgrounds and motels, must ensure that bathers under the age of 12 are accompanied by an adult or guardian no less than sixteen years of age at all times while in the pool area.

Ensure your children obey all pool rules so they have a happy and safe summer.

For further information regarding admission standards for public pools, contact the Health Protection Department at the Leeds, Grenville, and Lanark District Health Unit at 613-345-5685 or 613-283-2740.

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