

Andover Public Health Division Shares Pool Safety Tips

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✘ **For Immediate Release**

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ANDOVER – As summer approaches and many residents prepare to open their pools for Memorial Day weekend, the Andover Public Health Division is reminding residents to stay safe while poolside.

“We want everyone to have a safe and fun summer cooling off by the water,” said Andover Public Health Director Thomas Carbone. “Please, consider the safety tips provided to avoid accidents and potentially dangerous situations.”

More than 200 children drown in backyard swimming pools each year, according to the American Red Cross, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that drowning is the

number one cause of accidental death for children between the ages of 1 and 4.

To avoid accidents and keep everyone safe, the Andover Health Division recommends that residents:

- Per Massachusetts regulation, have at least a 4-foot-high barrier that encloses the pool and an access gate that self-closes, locks, and opens outward from the swimming area (even if you don't have children).
- Fasten a safety cover over the pool when it is not in use, and remove ladders to further prevent access into the pool. Pool alarms are required whenever a house door leads directly to a pool deck.
- Never leave children unattended while they are near or in a pool, and make sure they have an adult to accompany them into the water. Young or inexperienced swimmers should always wear a life jacket or inflatable arm floats.
- Make sure children stay away from pool drains, pipes, or any other openings to avoid getting trapped or hurt.
- Set safety instructions and share them with family, friends, neighbors, or anyone else who is near or uses the pool. Advise children to stay away from pool deep ends, and to always walk, never run near the pool.
- Keep your pool or hot tub water clean and clear. Maintain proper chemical levels, circulation and filtration. Regularly test and adjust the chemical levels to minimize the risk of earaches, rashes or more serious diseases.
- Never use the pool if the chemical levels are not correct, or if the water is cloudy and you can't see the bottom.
- Take a CPR course for adults and children to be prepared if an emergency situation occurs. Update skills regularly.
- Watch the local weather reports. Do not swim if

thunderstorms are in the forecast.

- Those who are 21 and older should drink responsibly if they choose to consume alcoholic beverages when relaxing by the pool. Overindulging increases the risk for injuries or accidental drowning.
- Avoid using glass containers by the pool. They could break and leave glass around the pool or in the water.

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