

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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National Water Safety Month

Are you water-ready?

The Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD), in collaboration with the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance, is preparing for summer by promoting National Water Safety Month in May. This initiative aims to highlight the importance of water safety and encourage safe swimming practices.

The Environmental Health Division of the GTCHD, in partnership with The Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, tests the water quality of our beaches weekly for E. coli during the months of June through September.

"Keeping our beaches safe is especially important during the summer when so many people come to enjoy everything our area has to offer," said Brent Wheat, GTCHD Environmental Health Director.

In Michigan, public swimming pools must be licensed and undergo annual inspections. These inspections are conducted by GTCHD staff to ensure that safety measures are in place to protect swimmers from illnesses, injuries, and accidents.

"Our team ensures that each pool facility has a plan in place to address potential issues, along with certified staff who are equipped to keep the pool well-maintained and operating properly year-round," said Wheat.

Drowning can happen in seconds, and it's often silent. A child or a weak swimmer can be at risk even in shallow water. According to the American Red Cross, drowning can lead to serious injury or death and can occur in many places: pools, hot tubs, beaches, oceans, lakes, rivers, streams, and even bathtubs.

The American Red Cross highlights several key water safety tips everyone should follow:

- Learn to swim
- Provide close, constant supervision
- Wear a United States Coast Guard-approved life jacket
- Read all posted signs
- Never swim alone or in unsupervised places
- Look for lifeguards
- Don't drink alcohol

To learn more about Water Safety:

- [Home - National Water Safety Month](#)
- [Water Safety | American Red Cross](#)

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Media Contact:

Cortney Brown – Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Cell: 231-313-9627 Office: 231-995-6162

Email: cbrown@gtcountymi.gov