It's That Time of Year Again
Spring cleaning, turning on the water & yard work. Soon chores will be done & cabins will be ready for your first renters. The Health Dept wants to remind you inspections & water samples are required annually. Please call to schedule your inspection ASAP!!

Find us on the Web
The Oneida County Health Department web site can be viewed at: www.oneidacountypublichealth.org
Located under the “Environmental Health” tab is information on drinking water, health codes, forms and applications, bed bugs, etc.

Well…..Check it Out!
If your facility has a well, please take a moment to go outside and inspect it. Loose well caps, broken well casings, and/or missing screens in well caps can be potential sources of bacterial contamination.
1) Well casing shall be in good condition, not cracked or corroded
2) Wiring shall be enclosed in conduit from the well cap to 3’ below ground surface
3) Well cap shall be in good condition and tightly adhered to well casing

Change is in Sight
The State has reclassified lodging license categories. In the past, lodging was categorized based on the number of bedrooms in a facility. Starting this licensing year, it will be based on the number of keyed entries. A single hotel room is considered “1 keyed entry” and 1 cabin/house is considered “1 keyed entry”. The Health Dept has already made lodging category adjustments but if you feel there is a discrepancy in your license category, please contact the Dept.

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Pool Testing, Testing, 1,2,3
The pool code (DHS 172) requires testing your pool and whirlpool’s total alkalinity (TA) level at least once weekly. The required level is 60-180ppm, although 80-120ppm is recommended for optimal performance. TA is best defined as the “index of water’s resistance to pH change”. Ensure your pool staff is monitoring the TA level and adjusting as needed.

Decks, Stairways, and Railings
Decks, stairways, and railings at licensed facilities need to meet Department of Safety and Professional Services (SPS) construction standards. Whether repairing these existing structures or building new, make sure building code requirements are met. The Oneida County Health Department can provide you with a copy of SPS 321.04 to help ensure you meet code requirements. However, when in doubt about any construction standards, contact a licensed building inspector or builder. Meeting building code requirements will keep your patrons safe.

Nurse and Doctor Notes
Rec-Ed camps are reminded that written notes are required of all medications administered or treatments provided to staff and campers. DHS 175 code requires written documentation in a bound book, with preprinted page numbers, indicating names, ailments, medications, treatments, quantity, dates/times, and comments. If your camp is using an electronic software program, such as CampDoc, please contact our Dept. for variance paperwork. Use of electronic medical software systems will be addressed in the next Rec-Ed Camp code revision.

Backflow Preventers
A backflow preventer is required when ever a direct or in-direct cross-connection in a public or private water system exists. The Hose Connection Vacuum Breaker is designed for low hazard installations where only back-siphonage could occur. These systems cannot be under constant pressure for more than 12 hrs in a 24 hr period and prohibit the use of a shut off valve downstream. This type of vacuum breaker is designed for installation on a standard garden hose bibb shut-off valve. The vacuum breaker is threaded directly onto the hose bibb and includes a vandal-proof set screw. While the hose is attached to the bibb, it cannot be stored in an elevated manner and a trigger sprayer/hose nozzle cannot be attached.

Takin’ a Dip at Camp
On a hot summer day, after playing hours of tennis, soccer, baseball, and riding horses, what could be better than taking a quick dip at your cabin’s dock with your counselor and fellow campers? Not much, except maybe a s’more by the campfire! Because this is still considered a “water activity” in the Recreational and Educational Camp code (DHS 175), we want to remind youth camps that all safety requirements must be adhered to at each dock. This includes direct supervision of a lifeguard, required life saving equipment, swimmer check in/check out of water, posting of swimming regulations, and clearly marked and separated swim skill zones.