

Recreational Water Illness Outbreaks Involving Interactive Water Features: Creating smart guidelines for a newly emerging public health priority

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PHASE Presentation

What are Interactive Water Features?













Background

- History and emergence
 - Sprinklers on a lawn
 - Recent popularity
 - Cost savings
 - Features
- Public health concerns
 - Audience
 - Outbreaks

IWF's versus swimming pools

IWF's

- Young children in diapers
- Not always supervised
- Water is aerosolized and exposed to the ground and to equipment
- Very few specific regulations
- Unique designs
- Under separate jurisdictions

Swimming Pools

- Older children who can swim
- Lifeguards
- Water remains inside pool
- Well-regulated
- Standard design
- Always under same jurisdiction

Methods

- Medical/public health literature search
- Industry literature search
- PHASE internship
 - Views of Maryland DHMH
 - Site visits
 - Pool/IWF manufacturers
 - Local recreational facilities
 - Pool committee
- Interviews with subject matter experts

What is in a name?

- No standard name
 - Sprayground or Spray Ground
 - Splashpad or Splash Pad
 - Spraypark or Spray Park
 - Sprayscape
 - Interactive Water Features

Definition

- Interactive water features
- Decorative water features
- Essential elements
 - 1. free-standing apparatuses whose function is to spray water into the air
 - 2. no more than 2” of standing water
 - 3. water draining and being re-circulated
 - 4. primary purpose is for playing

Cryptosporidium

- 15% of all RWI's
- Cannot be inactivated by chlorine alone
- Must have UV radiation
 - Industry
 - Health department
 - Recreational facilities

Surface

- Concrete
- Epoxy Resin
- Perspectives

Supervision

- No lifeguard
 - Wet jungle gym
 - Public parks
 - Pathogens being sprayed with water continuously
- Some supervision required
 - Fecal/vomiting
 - Animals
 - Signs are not enough
- Perspectives

Jurisdiction

- Department of Health
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Perspectives

Conclusion

- This was not a template for building guidelines
- Call to action for guidelines
 - Prevent outbreaks
- Discussion of key controversial issues
 - Industry perspective
 - Health department perspective
 - Recreational facility perspective
 - End user perspective

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