

DATE: May 2, 2014

SUBJECT: Supplement to Announcement C-14 #01 Water Safety Training for Child Care Providers and Lifeguard Requirements

TO: All Certification Staff

FROM: Terry L. Shaner Wade *TLSW*

Purpose:

- To provide additional information about the availability of water safety training for child care providers
- To clarify that the person certified as a lifeguard must be a staff person
- To confirm what information the child care program must have on file for the staff person certified as a lifeguard
- To provide suggestions and guidance on how facilities can comply with the requirement for the certified lifeguard

Background:

The Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) issued Announcement C-14 #01 "Water Safety Training for Child Care Providers and Lifeguard Requirements" February 28, 2014. The purposes of the announcement were to inform child care providers that water safety training specifically created for child care programs was available from the American Red Cross and to advise child care providers that supervision of children who are swimming must include a staff person certified as a lifeguard.

Since the issuance of the announcement, questions about how to get the training have been raised. Questions have also been submitted asking who the certified lifeguard must be and requirements relating to that.

Discussion:

The American Red Cross Water Safety Training

Child care programs have three ways they can get this training

- If the child care program has its own lifeguard, the lifeguard can contact George Zimmerman or Susan Fleming of the American Red Cross at the contact information provided in the announcement. The water safety training presentation is sent to the child care program's lifeguard for presentation to staff. The child care program's lifeguard may contact the Red Cross if he or she has questions.
- If the child care program does not have its own lifeguard, the Red Cross will ask the provider where they plan on going swimming. The Red Cross will contact that pool/recreation center to offer the training presentation to the lifeguards there.
- If the child care program does not have a trainer or certified lifeguard, they may arrange to have a trainer from the American Red Cross to present training to the staff. The child care program must pay a fee to use a trainer from the Red Cross.

When the training is presented by a lifeguard other than an American Red Cross trainer, George Zimmerman or Susan Fleming will ask the lifeguard to sign and



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return a Red Cross agreement so his/her credentials can be verified. Upon completion of the training, the child care program's lifeguard sends back the signed agreement and the names of child care staff who attended the training. Upon receipt of this information, the Red Cross completes a training certificate for each participant and sends them back to the child care program. Each certificate has a bar code that can be scanned to authenticate it at www.redcross.org/confirm. If the bar code cannot be used because scanning is not available, the certificate can still be authenticated by visiting the website and entering the Certificate ID Number. A sample training certificate is attached.

Lifeguard Requirements

The child care person who is certified as a lifeguard must be a staff person as defined at § 3270.4, § 3280.4 and § 3290.4. This means that the person must meet the requirements outlined at:

- § 3270.31, § 3280.31 and § 3290.31 relating to Age and training
- § 3270.32, § 3280.32 and § 3290.32 relating to Suitability of persons
- § 3270.33 and § 3280.33 relating to General requirements
- § 3270.151, § 3280.151 and § 3290.151 relating to Health assessment

Additionally, the staff person who is certified as a lifeguard must have a file with appropriate contents as outlined at:

- § 3270.191, § 3280.191 and § 3290.191 relating to Individual records
- § 3270.192, § 3280.192 and § 3290.192 relating to Content of records

Reminders and Other Considerations

- When children are swimming, the following staff to child ratios apply:
 - Infant 1 staff to 1 child
 - Young or older toddler 1 staff to 2 children
 - Preschool 1 staff to 5 children
 - Young school-age 1 staff to 6 children
 - Older school-age 1 staff to 8 children
- The child care staff person certified as a lifeguard is not counted in ratio when children are swimming.
- OCDEL enforces compliance at a location level. This means that if a legal entity with more than one child care location wants to take the children from two or more locations swimming at the same time, each location must take a staff person certified as a lifeguard on the excursion.
- The child care staff person certified as a lifeguard is not acting "in absence of the pool lifeguard."

Headquarters will be releasing this memo to the provider community in the near future.

Next Steps:

1. Review this supplemental memo.
2. Find this memo, with the original announcement, in the Certification shared folder.
3. Direct questions to your supervisor or regional director.



Certificate of Completion

[REDACTED] has successfully completed requirements for

General Water Safety - Does not expire

conducted by
American Red Cross

Date Completed: 03/05/2014

Instructors: George Nelson Zimmerman



Certificate ID: GQ2RDQ

To verify, scan code or visit:
redcross.org/confirm