Iowa Department of Public Health, in conjunction with cooperative agreement work group members, established this document as a "model" environmental health program. Work group members were instructed to consider the program involved and format program activities into core functions and essential services. This document is the summation of that activity.

**Swimming Pools and Spas**

The Iowa Department of Public Health has authority over swimming pool and spa programs in Iowa. Enabling legislation is found in Iowa Code Chapter 135I.

*Rules are found in 641 Iowa Administrative Code
  Chapter 15 Swimming Pools and Spas
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE FUNCTION/Essential Service</th>
<th>Model Program Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>ASSESSMENT/Monitor Health Status</td>
<td>• Track injuries, diseases, and deaths associated with swimming pools and spas on a local, state, and national level.</td>
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<td>• Establish a baseline of health and safety concerns at pool and spa facilities in your jurisdiction by reviewing previous inspection reports.</td>
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<td>• Educate the medical community on diagnosis of swimming pool or spa diseases or injuries. Provide them with instructions to contact the local health department as soon as possible upon diagnosis of a swimming pool or spa disease or injury.</td>
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<td>ASSESSMENT/Diagnose and Investigate</td>
<td>• Ensure the capabilities of laboratories conducting analysis of</td>
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| ASSESSMENT/Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality | swimming pool and spa water samples.  
- Provide laboratories with continuing education to notify the health department with results.  
- Continue to ensure certification of laboratories conducting water analysis by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).  
- Ensure procedures are in place to investigate waterborne disease outbreaks related to swimming pools and spas.  

| POLICY DEVELOPMENT/Develop policies and plans | Evaluate pool inspection reports on an annual basis to determine if deficiency frequencies are being reduced at facilities.  
- Review accident reports to determine if reductions are occurring at pool and spa facilities.  

| POLICY DEVELOPMENT/Enforce laws and regulations | Develop departmental policies for:  
* an enforcement program (when to close a facility, when to conduct a re-inspection, enforcement tools that can be used),  
* variance procedures, and  
* proper identification of swimming pool spa equipment and code requirements.  
- Develop a "penalty" system for repeat non-compliance requiring follow-up inspections.  

- Conduct routine inspections and enforce the most recently adopted version of the State Swimming Pool and Spa Code. Ensure correction of identified violations.  
- Implement action plans to address identified deficiencies and provide follow-up inspections. |
| POLICY DEVELOPMENT/Research new and innovative solutions | • Implement new code requirements and techniques into swimming pool/spa inspection process. Keep current on emerging technologies in the field of swimming pool and spa safety and sanitation.  
| • Review other state's pool and spa codes.  
| • Review research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor scientific breakthroughs in water safety. |
| ASSURANCE/Link people to needed service | • Educate the public to call the health department if they suspect problems at a pool or spa.  
| • Educate certified pool operators to contact the health department if they suspect problems at their facilities. |
| ASSURANCE/Ensure a competent workforce | • Require continuing education for certified pool operators.  
| • Require continuing education for pool inspectors.  
| • Require standardization of all pool inspectors bi-annually. |
| ASSURANCE/Inform, educate, and empower people | • Educate swimming pool and spa operators on new technologies available.  
| • Assist and educate certified pool operators in reducing health and safety hazard and eliminating repeat violations.  
| • Educate the public through public service announcements regarding swimming pool and spa requirements and safety issues.  
| • Release public service announcements to educate the public about safe pool and spa use |
at home.

- Develop a guidance document on the disclosure of swimming pool and spa inspection reports to the public.
- Send out periodic newsletters promoting swimming pool and spa safety.

### ASSURANCE/Mobilize community partnerships

- Coordinate with pool and spa operators in your area to present educational seminars.
- Work with schools to promote swimming pool and spa safety.
- Provide job shadowing or internships with local schools.