**Food for Thought**

**Tri-County Environmental Health Consortium**

**Top Violations for Campgrounds & Rec-Ed Camps**

Recently, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provided a list of top violations for campgrounds and recreational education camps in 2016 and 2017. Throughout the state there are a total of 999 licensed campgrounds and 276 licensed rec-ed camps. The data was taken from facility inspection reports. All food code violations were removed from the data in order to show specific violations relating to campgrounds and rec-ed camps. Even though the data was removed, food code violations accounted for 51% of all violations. The top violations from 2017 are:

**Top Campground Violations in WI**

1. Water System, Backflow Prevention
2. Campground Emergency Phone
3. Site Designation - site markers missing or not legible.
4. Campground Map - inaccurate or not updated
5. Wastewater System Access Covers - not secured

**Top Rec-Ed Violations in WI**

1. Medication Logs - unbound or incomplete
2. Fire Safety Requirements - typically alarms
3. Windows/Doors Effectively Screened
4. Consulting Physician - none designated, standing orders not reviewed/signed
5. annually
6. Boat Rescue Equipment
7. Clean Bedding Provided

Backflow prevention devices on water spigots have historically been a top violation at campgrounds. We are aware that this may be difficult for campground operators to manage; but the absence of backflow preventers pose a real risk of contaminating the campground’s water supply.

Emergency phones have been a top violation in the past couple years because operators are still working to comply with the new campground code adopted in 2016, which now requires a 24/7 emergency phone. Remember, all that is required is a sign stating the location of the closest available phone in case of an emergency. Opera tors may provide a phone on site or direct guests to a separate location.

To ensure children are receiving the best care they can at rec-ed camps, it is important to have approved medication logs and to document all information required under ATCP 78.19(7)(b). The list of approved electronic systems for documenting health histories, medications and first aid continues to be updated by DATCP. The list is available at DATCP’s website and is also provided in this newsletter. If using paper log books, they must be bound and pre-numbered. DATCP guidance on what constitutes a bound book is provided on their website and is included in this newsletter.

The second most frequent violation at rec-ed camps is missing or non-functioning smoke alarms. It is important to test all smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to make sure they are in working condition and routinely replace batteries.

It is Tri-County’s goal to work with operators to reduce these violations and improve camper safety.

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**Health and Treatment Record Software Approved for Rec-Ed Camps**

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Service Animals in Food and Recreational Establishments

Under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA and Wisconsin’s equal rights law, people with disabilities have the right to be accompanied by their service animals into all public accommodations, which include all places of business and recreation; for example, hotels and other lodging, taverns, restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, and all other places that make goods services, amusement, or other public accommodations available, free or otherwise.

Which Animals are Service Animals in Wisconsin?

Under the ADA, a service animal is a dog that has been trained to perform tasks or do work for the benefit of the person with a disability. The tasks or work performed by the animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability. In some cases, a miniature horse may also qualify as a service animal if it is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Examples of service animals that must be allowed into public accommodations include:

- Emotional support animals, comfort animals, and therapy dogs are not service animals. While these animals are often used as part of a medical treatment plan as therapy animals, they are not considered service animals under the ADA. These support animals provide companionship, relieve loneliness, and sometimes help with depression, anxiety, and certain phobias, but do not have special training to perform tasks that assist people with disabilities. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not considered service animals either. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual’s disability.
- It does not matter if a person has a note from a doctor that states that the person has a disability and needs to have the animal for emotional support. A doctor’s letter does not turn a pet into a service animal.

Two Questions you may Ask:

1. Is the animal required because of a disability?
2. What work or task has the animal been trained to perform?

You may not ask questions about the handler’s disability or demand to see certification, identification, or other proof of the service animal’s training or status.

Your Responsibilities as a Business Owner

You must make provisions so the handler and service animal enter your facility and the animal’s service tasks are not obvious, you may ask only these questions:

- Are there blind or visually impaired
- Psychiatric service animals, which help their handlers manage mental and emotional disabilities; for example, the animal may interrupt self-harming behaviors, remind handlers to take medication, check spaces for intruders, or provide calming pressure during anxiety or panic attacks.
- Seizure alert animals, which let their handlers know of impending seizures, and may also guard their handlers during seizure activity.
- Allergen alert animals, which let their handlers know of foods or other substances that could be dangerous.

Frequently Asked Questions: Communicable Disease and Outbreaks in Summer Camps

Information for Camp Directors and Health Personnel

What is an Outbreak?

An outbreak is any disease that is present in a community in great numbers than would typically be expected. In some instances, a single case of a contagious disease may be considered an outbreak. Since there is no communicable diseases that are known to be regularly found among summer campers, two or more cases are sufficient evidence to alert the local health department (LHD) that the camp may be experiencing an outbreak.

Handler’s Responsibilities

A handler (a person with a disability) is responsible for the care and supervision of the service animal. If a service animal is not housebroken or behaves in an unacceptable way and the handler does not control the animal, you do not have to allow the animal to remain on the premises. Uncontrolled barking, jumping on other people, or running away from the handler are examples of unacceptable behavior. The handler must control the service animal so it does not pose a threat to the health and safety of others. This can be done using a harness, leash, or by some other means, such as voice control. Under Wisconsin law, a service animal may not be admitted if it would fundamentally change the nature of the accommodation or jeopardize its safe operation.

Reaction/Response of Others

Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to people using service animals. If employees or customers are afraid of service animals, a solution may be to allow enough space for that person to avoid getting close to the animal. Many allergies to animals are caused by direct contact with the animal. A separated space might be adequate to avoid allergic reactions. If a person is at risk of a significant allergic reaction to an animal, it is the responsibility of the business to find a way to accommodate both the individual using the service animal and the individual with the allergy.

If illness is suspected in one of more campers or staff, what should the camp director do?

It is required by state law to report communicable disease to the LHD. In the event that illness is suspected in one of more campers or staff, camp directors should notify their camp’s on-site consulting physician and the LHD in their county immediately. The LHD will then advise the camp director on what control measures should be put into place and whether or not lab specimens need to be collected.

In the even of a Communicable Disease outbreak, how can camp directors be best prepared to help the LHD in their investigation?

Depending on the situation, camp directors should be prepared to provide the LHD with any information they may need to assure appropriate testing and follow-up are done. This information may include: histories of symptoms of sick persons, reviewing immunization records, interviewing campers and staff, asking about camp activities, and asking questions about food and water exposure.

Unlicensed TRH’s Advertising Online

Unlicensed renters often ask, “How did you find us?” From time to time, we search websites such as VRBO and AirBnB for facilities in our area that are renting without a license. More times than not, homeowners are not aware that they need a license to rent their vacation homes. Information packets are mailed to these homeowners and most of the time they begin the licensing process with us. It is important to emphasize to unlicensed renters that the health and safety of the public is our main priority and that being a licensed facility is in the owner’s best interest.

As a result of our website review, since December, we have 15 new properties that are either new licensees or in the process of becoming licensed.

Operator’s Invited: Food and Recreation Advisory Committee

Tri-County has been partnering with licensed operators since 2013 through the Food Advisory Committee. This group of volunteers collaborates with Tri-County staff to create and amend policies, provide feedback on Health Department activities and get periodic updates and clarifications about the Wisconsin Food Code and recreation codes.

Meetings typically last one and a half hours and will now be held once each year in the Fall. Our next scheduled meeting is October 9, 2018, at 2:30 pm at the Waushara County Health Department.

Let us know if you would like to be involved and we will send you a reminder email prior to the meetings. Please contact Mary Robl at: mary.robl@co.waushara.wi.us