

May 30, 2008

To All Local Health Officers,

For several years now this office has received numerous complaints from many of you regarding the lateness youth camp pre operational assignment lists sent out each year. Unfortunately, because of the way the existing rule is written, many renewal applications sent to this office are not received till the first week in June. As a result, this office has not been able to send out a complete list of assignments until mid June. As promised, the rule revisions will address this issue. Starting in the 2009 season, all renewal youth camp applications must be received by May 1. This will allow us to get assignments out to your offices before the end of May.

In addition, in an effort by this office to assist the local Health Departments in their pre operational inspection workload, this office has taken measures to accomplish this. Two seasons ago we initiated a Pilot program for Single Sport Youth Camps (SSYC). All SSYCs will have one permanent youth camp id number per owner. As a result, this office has taken on the responsibility for pre operational inspections for SSYCs.

Another initiative taken by this office was to come into a working agreement with the American Camp Association, New Jersey Section (ACA-NJ). This agreement will be written into the new rule accepting the ACA accreditation in lieu of routine pre operational and operational inspections in the state. Unfortunately, due to time constraints, the rule will not be in effect this season. But, as per an agreement by this office with the ACA-NJ, we will be accepting the ACA accreditation this season in lieu of routine pre operational and operational inspections in the state.

Therefore, in effect this season (2008), all local Health Departments will **not** be responsible for doing routine pre operational and operational inspections of any SSYC or ACA accredited youth camps. The annual "inspection responsibilities" letter which goes out with your respective pre operational assignments will also reiterate this. Please understand that although this office is accepting the ACA accreditation, it does not prohibit your office from doing the pre operational inspections, it only alleviates your responsibility from doing them as per the minimum practice standards for local health departments.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

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