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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC POOLS

The Central Connecticut Health District is working with the owners and operators of public swimming pools to ensure they are in compliance with a new federal law that took effect on December 19, 2008. The new law is called the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act. This new law requires public pool owners to install specific safety drain covers and, where appropriate, equipment to prevent suction entrapment. This law came about following the death of the granddaughter of former Secretary of State James Baker in June 2002. Under certain conditions, suction drains are capable of holding a person under water. This new law prevents such entrapment.

The Health District has been working with the owners of year-round indoor pools and they are now all in compliance with the requirements of the Act. The Health District has started to work with the owners of seasonal public pools to ensure they are in compliance before they open for the 2009 season. An informational packet has been sent to these owners advising them on what they will need to do before they open.

Additional information regarding the requirements of the Act may be obtained from the Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.cpsc.gov.

For further information please contact the Central Connecticut Health District at 721-2818.