



Florida Health Mission:

To protect, promote
& improve the health
of all people
in Florida through
integrated state, county,
& community efforts.

Rick Scott
Governor

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Surgeon General & Secretary

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Florida Department of Health in Lee County
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REGION ALIGNS TO PREVENT DROWNING BEFORE MEMORIAL DAY
Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties coordinate efforts

Lee County, FL—The first tri-county alliance to prevent drowning was announced to coincide with National Drowning Prevention Month by the Safe Kids Coalition Lee-Collier Counties, and to remind people that Memorial Day Weekend is the national start of drowning season. The Florida Department of Health is the lead agency for Safe Kids in Florida.

“Drowning is preventable through vigilance, education, barriers and skills,” said Diane Holm, Florida Department of Health in Lee County public information officer. “Lee County’s child drowning rate has been stagnant near the top of the chart for more than 40 years. This alliance can provide adults and children with the consistent messages, tools and resources needed to keep both children and adults from this preventable injury.”

The local Safe Kids Coalition, led by the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, has been working with the Safe and Health Kids Coalition of Collier County and a new drowning prevention coalition in Charlotte County to achieve an alliance. Combined benefits include public service announcements on billboards, television and radio educating the public about the risk of drowning and how to prevent it.

New in Lee County, life jacket loaner stations were placed at five Lee County beaches, free swim lessons are being provided for qualified children at the Tice Pool and Never Swim Alone education messages for children and adults will be at the dinner table in area restaurants. These programs were added to the life jacket loaner stations at marinas, gas docks and boat ramps; education programs at public pools; and distribution of Designated Water Watcher lanyards.

New in Collier County, Never Swim Alone pins are being worn by employees of the Florida Department of Health, Head Start, City of Naples and Naples Community Hospital in addition to educational coloring placemats at restaurants including Skilletts, Mel’s Diner and Longhorn Steakhouse. These programs were added to their Swim Central free swim lesson program, lifejacket loaner stations and Designated Water Watcher lanyard distribution.

New in Charlotte County, the developing coalition is supporting efforts of Just Against Children Drowning to install barriers around home pools, provide swim lesson scholarships to families in need, education and the Designated Water Watcher lanyard distribution.

Lee County hospitals see 30-50 child submersion injuries every year, and a third of those injuries become permanent. The Florida Department of Health in Lee County urges all parents and care givers to get children enrolled in swim lessons including water safety instruction. Parents should learn water rescue skills and CPR. Adults and children should wear life jackets every time you go boating.

Layers of protection that include swim skills, supervision, barriers and emergency preparedness are listed on the Waterproof Florida website www.waterproofll.com .

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The Department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information go to <http://www.lee.floridahealth.gov/>.



For More Information Contact:
Safe Kids Coalition of Lee and Collier Counties
Drowning Prevention Committee
(239) 343-6199
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www.leecountyinjuryprevention.org
www.safekidsleecollier.org

SWIMMING LESSONS IN LEE COUNTY

South Region

Name and Pool Address	Student Ages	Type of Lessons	Seasons Available	Scholarships Available	Scheduling Information
Bonita Springs Community Pool (BSCP) 26890 Pine Avenue Bonita Springs	12 mos. to Adult	Private and Group	March through November	None	(239) 947-1948 www.bonitaspringsrecreation.org
Bonita Springs YMCA 27200 Kent Road Bonita Springs	6 mos. to Adult	Private and Group	May through August	Yes	(239) 221-7560 www.swflyca.org Bonita Springs
FGCU Aquatic Center (FGCU) 10501 FGCU Blvd. S. Fort Myers	Pre-School to Adult	Group	Summer and Fall	No	(239) 590-7700 www.fgcu.edu/aquatics
Fort Myers Beach Pool 2600 Oak Street Fort Myers Beach	Infant to Adult	Group	Summer	Limited	(239) 463-5759 www.fortmyersbeachfl.gov
San Carlos Community Pool 8208 Sanibel Boulevard San Carlos Park	Pre-School to Adult	Private and Group	Year-round <i>Summer - Infant to 18</i>	Limited	(239) 533-7275 www.leeparks.org
Sanibel Recreation Complex 3840 San-Cap Road Sanibel Island	Infant to Adult	Private and Group	Year Round	No	(239) 472-0345 www.mysanibel.com

Central Region

City of Fort Myers Golf View Pool (FMGVP) 1865 Golf View Avenue Fort Myers	6 mos. To Adult	Semi-private Group	Spring and Summer	No	(239) 931-7020 www.cityftmyers.com
Fort Myers Aquatic Center (FMAC) 1750 Matthew Drive Fort Myers	Infant to Adult	Semi-Private and Group	Spring Summer Fall	No	(239) 931-7020 www.cityftmyers.com
STARS Complex 2980 Edison Avenue Fort Myers	Age 5 to 12 years	Group	Summer	Children	(239) 332-6671 www.cityftmyers.com
Tice Community Pool 4515 Glenwood avenue Fort Myers	4 years to 12 years	Group	Summer	Yes	(239) 533-7275 www.leeparks.org

Eastern Region

Lehigh Acres Community Pool (LACP) 1400 West Fifth Street Lehigh Acres	Pre-School to Adult	Private and Group	Year-round <i>Summer - Infant to 18</i>	Limited	(239) 533-7275 www.leeparks.org
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North Region

North Fort Myers Community Pool (NFMCP) 5170 Orange Grove Blvd. North Fort Myers	Pre-School to Adult	Private and Group	Year-round <i>Summer - Infant to 18</i>	Limited	(239) 533-7275 www.leeparks.org
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Western Region

Cape Coral Yacht Club (CCYC) 5819 Driftwood Parkway Cape Coral	6 mos. to 12 years	Group, Synchronized Swimming	Year Round	No	(239) 542-3903 www.capecoral.net Cape Coral Yacht Club
Phillips Park Community Pool (PPCP) 5675 Sesame Drive Pine Island	Pre-School to Adult	Private and Group	Year-round <i>Summer - Infant to 18</i>	Limited	(239) 533-7275 www.leeparks.org
Sun Splash Water Park 400 Santa Barbara Blvd. Cape Coral	Infant to 12 years	Group	Summer	No	(239) 574-0558 www.sunsplashwaterpark.com
Wellness Center of Cape Coral 636 del Prado Boulevard Cape Coral	6 mos. to Adult	Private and Semi-Private	Year-round Summer - Infant to 18	No	(239) 424-3220 www.leememorial.org Wellness Center Aquatics
YMCA Cape Coral High School Pool Cape Coral	6 mos. to Adult	Group	Spring Summer Fall	Yes	(239) 275-9622 www.leecountyymca.org