



Dear parent / carer,

Important message from Calderdale Public Health and West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

We have been made aware of an incident where a small number of children have become unwell after playing, swimming or paddling in local rivers and canals.

At this time of year, we respond to many concerns about young people swimming and jumping into open water.

Be aware! Open waters are exposed to the elements and may therefore contain bacteria / viruses from natural sources such as animal waste. This can make you extremely unwell.

Please tell your children to:

- Avoid drinking water from open water sources
- Wash hands thoroughly after playing in or near rivers, lakes, streams and canals

If your child becomes unwell after contact with open water, seek medical advice as appropriate.

Please also remind your children about the other hidden dangers of open water. There are many dangers when entering canals, rivers, and reservoirs, which have tragically taken lives. **The number of accidental drownings in our region is on the rise.** Even with all the hot weather we have been having the water temperature will be cold. Below 15°C is defined as cold water and can seriously affect your breathing and movement

If you get into difficulty in the water #FloatToLive:

- **Take a minute** - The initial effects of cold-water pass in the less than a minute so don't try and swim straight away;
- **Relax and float** - On your back to catch your breath. Try to get hold of something that will help you float;
- **Keep calm** - Then call for help or swim to safety if you're able.

If you see someone in difficulty in the water, call **999 and ask for Fire!**

For more information on keeping your family safe in, on and around water have a look at our website: www.westyorkfire.gov.uk/water

Please #BeWaterAware