



# Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

[of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment](#)



Biweekly Bulletin July 15, 2009

This bulletin lists upcoming events plus recent announcements, news and journal articles, calls for proposals and other items related to children's environmental health. They are archived and searchable on our website:

[http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins).

## ICEH Highlights

### Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Registration Is Open.

CHE-WA's Children's Environmental Health Working Group is hosting a Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum October 1-2, 2009, at the Tukwila Community Center. Registration is now open through the [Forum's web page](#), and a draft program and information about accommodations are also posted. Confirmed speakers include these:

- Ted Schettler, MD, MPH, Science & Environmental Health Network
- Bruce Lanphear, MD, MPH, Simon Frazier University
- Michael Skinner, PhD, Washington State University
- Shanna Swan, PhD, University of Rochester
- plus many regional experts

### Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum: Call for Poster Abstracts.

We invite all researchers, technical staff, students, and practitioners from educational institutions, government and tribal agencies, nonprofit groups, and the private sector to submit abstracts to the Forum's poster session. More information and a submission form are available on the [Forum web page](#). Poster abstracts must be submitted by September 4th for consideration.

## Upcoming Events

**Online Calendar.** These and more upcoming events are listed in a searchable calendar: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>

### 1) Seventeenth International Conference on Modelling, Monitoring and Management of Air Pollution

Monday through Wednesday, July 20 - 22, 2009  
Tallinn, Estonia  
at the Reval Hotel Olümpia

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology Transactions on Ecology and the Environment

The goal of this conference is to bring together researchers who are active in the study of air contaminants and to exchange information through the presentation and discussion of papers dealing with the wide variety of topics such as air pollution modeling, energy and air quality, environmental health effects, and much more. Case study papers are encouraged, as well as papers of a more theoretical nature dealing with advanced mathematical and computational methods.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Creasey, 44-0-238-0293223 or [rcreasey@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:rcreasey@wessex.ac.uk)

## **2) Model Toxics Control Act Seminar**

Wednesday July 22, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center

Sponsor: Law Seminars International

The Washington State Department of Ecology is beginning a major rewrite of the Model Toxics Control Act regulations. This seminar will explore these potentially controversial changes, which range from revised vapor intrusion standards to new sediment cleanup rules. This seminar will also address long-standing issues such as Ecology's implementation of the cleanup program, the evolution of the Voluntary Cleanup Program, and the cleanup of sites along Puget Sound. Lawyers, consultants, environmental groups, and parties involved with cleanups will want to hear the latest developments concerning issues they may have when conducting cleanup of contaminated property.

Price: \$695, government employees \$495, students \$347.50; home study is also available

[Visit the website](#)

## **3) Environmental Health Undergraduate Curriculum Development Workshop**

Wednesday through Friday, July 22- 24, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention campus

Sponsor: Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences Roundtable on Environmental Health Sciences, Research, and Medicine

The separation of environmental science and public health has become overwhelmingly apparent in many undergraduate curriculums. To more successfully prepare undergraduates to face the many issues in the field of environmental health, the Roundtable is convening a workshop to stimulate conversation between scholars from both the environmental and the health communities. The workshop will promote development of educational materials for instructors from all related fields and the educational materials will work to incorporate public health into a broader spectrum of coursework including environmental science and design.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Institute of Medicine, 202-334-2352 [iomwww@nas.edu](mailto:iomwww@nas.edu)

## **4) Inaugural Conference on Obesity Prevention and Control**

Monday through Wednesday, July 27 - 29, 2009

Washington, DC

at the Omni Shoreham Hotel

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity

Weight of the Nation is designed to provide a forum to highlight progress in the prevention and control of obesity through policy and environmental strategies and is framed around four intervention settings: community, medical care, school, and workplace. Plenary and concurrent sessions will focus on strategies implemented in these settings that have led to policy and environmental changes which may improve population-level health. A key feature of the conference is a move from didactic presentations to an emphasis on interactive discussion between plenary and concurrent session panelists, and the audience.

Price: \$350 until July 3rd (or \$175 per day), \$425 after that

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

### **5) Precaution's Reach: A Principle in Action**

Tuesday July 28, 2009

10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call will explore a cornerstone of CHE's original consensus statement, the precautionary principle. Please join us to discuss various ways the precautionary principle is currently being implemented. Presenters will primarily focus on a new report from the Science & Environmental Health Network (SEHN), examining the role of the precautionary approaches across sectors. The report, "Advancing The Precautionary Agenda," draws a picture of shared ideas, challenges, and hopes for integrating precaution in a broad-based fashion. Also to be highlighted is the Endocrine Society's recent and seminal report on endocrine disruptors, which also evokes the precautionary principle -- an extraordinary step for a major medical society. Featured speakers will be Patrice Sutton, MPH; Tom Zoeller, PhD; and Carolyn Raffensperger.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

### **6) Public Health Law 101 for Non-Lawyers: Using the Law as a Tool to Protect and Promote the Public's Health**

Wednesday July 29, 2009

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Orlando, Florida

Sponsor: National Association of County and City Health Officials

Local health officials, along with federal and state public health practitioners, are responsible for the public's health and safety. This responsibility requires that local health officials and senior local health department staff understand the legal powers and responsibilities of local public health. The purpose of this workshop is to improve the understanding and use of the law as a tool for effective public health practice. During this workshop, participants will learn about the foundations of public health law and how legal principles are applied in local public health practice. The target audience is local health officials and other senior level local health department staff (supervisors or managers).

Price: \$30, includes continental breakfast, lunch and all meeting materials

[Visit the website](#)

### **7) Sources of Pollution & Safe School Siting Overview**

Wednesday July 29, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the first of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying the possible sources of pollution and potential health impacts, 2) understanding the type of school-siting policies in place, and 3) learning where to find more information about what potential sources of pollution are near your own schools.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

**8) NACCHO Annual 2009 Conference**

Wednesday through Friday, July 29 - 31, 2009

Orlando, Florida

at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort

Sponsor: National Association of County & City Health Officials

Under the theme The New Public Health - Working Across Sectors to Leverage Investment in Communities, this conference will provide an interactive setting for local health officials and their public-health partners from around the country to examine strategies, share ideas and plan actions necessary for public-health leaders to create the new public health.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

**9) Workshop on PCBs in the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers**

Thursday July 30, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Portland, Oregon

at the Port of Portland, 121 NW Everett

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

The workshop has four purposes: exchange information on PCB characterization, exchange information on current and new monitoring methods, exchange information on future and proposed PCB reduction efforts, and follow up on focus on PCBs in the State of the River Report.

Price: free, but preregistration is requested

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

**10) Model School Siting Guidelines**

Wednesday August 5, 2009

noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the second of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying key components of safe school-siting policies, 2) understanding the type of school-siting policies your own state has passed, and 3) understanding the process that goes into choosing a safe site.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

**11) MASO 2009 Scientific Conference on Obesity**

Wednesday and Thursday, August 12 - 13, 2009

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

at the Seri Pacific Kuala Lumpur, Jalan Putra 50470

Sponsor: Malasian Society for the Study of Obesity

The conference theme is "Obesity and our Environment." This two-day conference will provide up-to-date information incorporating both research and practice elements on the interaction between environmental factors and obesity.

Price: see [the registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

## Announcements & Articles

A daily news feed with these articles and announcements is now available on CHE's website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

### [Video Presentation.](#)

The Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health center has posted Bobby Kennedy, Jr. and Dr. Philip Landrigan's May 13, 2009, lecture about everyday chemical exposures and their link to chronic childhood diseases.

### [Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit.](#)

The Cleaning for Healthy Schools Toolkit is a training tool you can use to build awareness, knowledge, and commitment to adopting best practices for green cleaning in schools and child care centers. Easy-to-use learning modules can be customized to introduce all audiences to green cleaning and Cleaning for Healthy Schools.

### [EPA seeks public comment on proposal to ban boat sewage in South Shore Estuary Reserve.](#)

EPA has given its preliminary approval to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) proposal to prohibit vessel waste discharges in the South Shore Estuary Reserve. EPA is asking the public to comment on the plan. US Environmental Protection Agency.

### [EPA extends comment period for Renewable Fuel Standard Program.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is extending the comment period by 60 days on its proposed rule revising the national Renewable Fuel Standard program, commonly referred to as RFS2. US Environmental Protection Agency.

### [EWG launches interactive news and commentary site on toxic chemicals policy reform.](#)

Environmental Working Group (EWG) has launched an interactive online site featuring news and commentary, as well as a forum for a thought-provoking exchange of ideas on reforming the nation's federal toxic chemicals policies.

### [Call for proposals: Healthy Homes Technical Studies Program.](#)

The purpose of the program is to fund technical studies to improve existing methods for detecting and controlling housing-related health and safety hazards, to develop new methods to detect and control these hazards, and to improve our knowledge of housing-related health and safety hazards. Applications are due August 18, 2009.

### [Call for proposals: Climate Showcase Communities Grant.](#)

The Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Bill authorized EPA to administer a \$10 million competitive grant program to assist local and tribal governments in establishing and implementing climate change initiatives. The overall goal of the Climate Showcase Communities grant program is to create replicable models of sustainable community action that generate cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions while improving the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in a community. The closing date for receipt of hard copy application packages is July 22, 2009.

### [The C8 Health Project: Design, methods, and participants.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

This largest known population study of community perfluorocarbon exposure permits new

evaluations of associations between PFOA, in particular, and a range of health parameters. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### [Basis of the Massachusetts Reference Dose and Drinking Water Standard for Perchlorate.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

Current data indicates that perchlorate exposures to sensitive life-stages attributable to drinking water should be minimized and supports the MA DEP perchlorate RfD and DWS. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### [Toxic truth: Read the story.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

The Smalley-Piper Industries property in Collierville has been locked and abandoned for years. But it's the contamination you can't see -- unfazed by fences or padlocks -- that make this old factory one of the nation's most dangerous and contaminated Superfund sites. Memphis WREG TV, Tennessee.

### [When haste makes toxic waste.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

The same week that US Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts hailed House passage of the most sweeping environmental legislation since the 1970s, the Commonwealth cut one of the most effective state environmental laws in the country by virtually eliminating the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass-Lowell. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

### [Illnesses afflict homes with a criminal past.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

The number of clandestine meth labs discovered in the US rose by 14 percent last year, to 6,783, in part because of a crackdown on meth manufacturers in Mexico and in part because of the spread of a new meth-making method called "shake and bake." New York Times.

### [DDT breakdown chemical alters thyroid hormone function in pregnant women.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

Researchers report that women with higher DDE blood concentrations were 2.5 times more likely to have high thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH). Environmental Health News.

### [Kiwis rethink on folic acid in bread.](#)

*Tuesday, July 14, 2009*

Australia could go it alone in adding folic acid to bread after its food standards partner New Zealand began reconsidering the new standard, which aims to reduce birth defects by making compulsory the inclusion of folic acid in wheat flour for bread making. Sydney Australian, Australia.

### [New database tracks pollution.](#)

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

For years, researchers have linked high levels of certain toxins to particular health problems, and a new database launched by the state Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Environmental Services is seeking to compile that information in one place. Laconia Citizen, New Hampshire.

### [Tiny particles pose threat: Scientists.](#)

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

Tiny particles [nanoparticles] in consumer products sold in New Zealand and around the world pose health and environmental risks and need to be tracked, scientists say. Manawatu Standard, New Zealand.

### [Is resveratrol safe to take?](#)

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

Resveratrol is, potentially, a powerful drug, but it qualifies as a dietary supplement, produced and marketed by an industry that operates under far less stringent government oversight than companies producing prescription drugs. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Shanxi has top birth-defect rate.](#)**

*Monday, July 13, 2009*

Shanxi Province, containing about one-third of China's known coal deposits, has the highest rate of birth defects in mainland China, which could be linked to environmental pollution, poor diet and vitamin deficiency, China Central Television reported. Shanghai Daily, China.

**[U.S. power plant emissions fall.](#)**

*Sunday, July 12, 2009*

U.S. power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide dropped sharply in the first half of the year as the electricity industry prepared for tighter regulation in 2010, Genscape said Monday. Environmental News Network.

**[Got ear plugs? You may want to sport them on the subway, researchers say.](#)**

*Sunday, July 12, 2009*

Researchers studied the risk of excessive exposure to noise related to mass transit ridership, conducting an extensive set of noise measurements of New York City mass transit systems. University of Washington University Week.

**[Sun warnings 'overstated' as science finds new clue to skin cancer.](#)**

*Sunday, July 12, 2009*

Sunshine is not the main cause of the most dangerous form of skin cancer, according to researchers, who say some warnings about the perils of sunbathing are scaring people unnecessarily. London Times, England.

**[Study: Heart disease deaths in valley rise with pollutant level.](#)**

*Sunday, July 12, 2009*

Studies show air pollution leads to a range of problems: shortened lives, heart attacks, increased hospitalization and emergency room visits, asthma attacks, respiratory symptoms and missed school and work days. Palm Springs Desert Sun, California.

[See related articles from the Desert Sun: [Struggling to breathe in the desert](#) and [Learn more about pollutants](#) and another from Fresno: [Asthma study finds seasonal surprises](#)]

**[Poisoned legacy.](#)**

*Sunday, July 12, 2009*

Bhopal, the Hiroshima of the chemical industry, is still claiming victims -- babies born 25 years later with serious birth defects. Glasgow Sunday Herald, Scotland.

**[Pregnant women warned about swine flu risks.](#)**

*Saturday, July 11, 2009*

Pregnant women are at a greater risk than the rest of the population of suffering serious complications from swine flu, Canadian health authorities warned Friday. Agence France-Press.

**[Midland wells contaminated with chromium.](#)**

*Saturday, July 11, 2009*

Texas environmental officials are still trying to determine the extent of Midland's hexavalent chromium contamination. Associated Press.

**[Local engineer develops low-cost filtration system using cattails to treat arsenic-contaminated drinking water that poisons millions.](#)**

*Saturday, July 11, 2009*

Jeremiah Jackson, a San Diego environmental engineer, has developed an inexpensive arsenic filtration system using aquatic plants to improve the lives of millions affected by arsenic-contaminated drinking water in more than 20 nations. Rancho Santa Fe Review, California.

**[Nine companies penalized for selling children's products that violated the federal lead paint ban.](#)**

*Saturday, July 11, 2009*

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced today that nine children's product manufacturers, importers and sellers have agreed to pay more than

\$500,000 in civil penalties for violating the federal lead paint ban. US Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**[Boys' birth defect is not increasing, raising questions about phthalate syndrome.](#)**

*Friday, July 10, 2009*

Hypospadias, one of the most common birth defects among baby boys, apparently is not increasing in the U.S., casting doubt on whether boys are harmed by phthalates and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals thought to trigger reproductive abnormalities. Environmental Health News.

**[Quality of bottled water questioned in Congress.](#)**

*Thursday, July 09, 2009*

At a hearing Wednesday, members of Congress were briefed on two new studies that question whether bottled water is safer than water directly from the faucet. New York Times.

*[See a related article: [Is your bottled water safe?](#)]*

**[Wood burning creates top cancer risk in Oregon's air, EPA says.](#)**

*Thursday, July 09, 2009*

Pollution from burning wood in stoves, fireplaces and elsewhere is the top cancer risk in Oregon's air, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency analysis. Portland Oregonian, Oregon.

**[More grim news about the bay.](#)**

*Thursday, July 09, 2009*

Just how much trouble the Chesapeake Bay might be in was made clearer with Tuesday's release of a new report by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation that outlines four serious threats to human health stemming from pollution. Salisbury Daily Times, Maryland.

*[See a related article: [Chesapeake Bay is a threat to humans, too](#) and another about improving water quality in Orange County, California: [How is the water? Getting better.](#)]*

**[Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Diabetes linked directly to environment.](#)**

*Thursday, July 09, 2009*

A new study by researchers at Rhode Island Hospital found a substantial link between increased death rate from certain age-related diseases and increased exposure to nitrates, nitrites and nitrosamines in processed foods and in the environment. Ivanhoe Broadcast News.

*[See a related article: [Parkinson's linked to high levels of pesticide in the body](#)]*

**[Micro plastic, major problem.](#)**

*Thursday, July 09, 2009*

A local nonprofit is collecting data for a landmark study on the extent to which our waters are choked with plastic, and what it means for the overall health of the oceans. The project points to growing concerns over how much of a threat plastic is to public health. Honolulu Weekly, Hawaii.

**[Smoking cessation harder for women than men.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 08, 2009*

Women appear to have a tougher time quitting smoking than men, according to researchers at Women's Health Research at Yale. Hartford Courant, Connecticut.

**[Hormones may tie caffeine to cancer risk.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 08, 2009*

Coffee and general caffeine intake may affect a woman's levels of estrogen and other sex hormones, a new study suggests - offering a potential explanation for findings that link caffeine to certain cancers. Reuters Health.

**[Study of babies reveals clues to potential adult diseases.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 08, 2009*

The Univ. of Iowa Children's Hospital has assembled a program focusing on the connection between early life events and the development of disease later on. Babies that are born small have earlier onset of cardiovascular disease as adults. Des Moines



Register, Iowa.

[See related articles: [Aging well starts in womb, as mom's choices affect whole life](#) and [Prenatal factors may up diabetes risk late in life](#)]

#### **[Administration issues new rules on egg safety.](#)**

Wednesday, July 08, 2009

On Tuesday, the Obama administration released a rule to deal with the nation's egg problem and used the moment to promise a sweeping overhaul of the system to ensure the safety of spinach, lettuce, tomatoes, melons, beef and chicken -- foods that lead to millions of illnesses and thousands of deaths a year. New York Times.

#### **[Report: 'Electrosmog' is an emerging public health issue.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

A report documenting health hazards linked to wireless radiation, called "electrosmog," is landing on desks in Congress this week, issued by the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (NISLAPP). Salem-News.com.

#### **[Social factors influence neighborhood asthma rates.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

Childhood asthma is less common in neighborhoods with high economic potential and strong community vitality, new research shows. Reuters Health.

#### **[CDC launches tracking network for environmental conditions, public health.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

Today the CDC announced a new web-based environmental and public health tracking system aims to help scientists, health care providers and the public to monitor environmental and health information in one location. Cardiology Today.

[See a related article: [Utah's environmental, health data linked online](#)]

#### **[The claim: Sunscreens can increase the risk of melanoma.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

Several intriguing studies have investigated claims that zinc oxide and other compounds in some sunscreens can create free radicals in the presence of sunlight, leading to cell damage. New York Times.

#### **[Food safety body sets French fries, baby food rules.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

An international food safety body has set rules to cut levels of cancer-causing chemicals and bacteria in foodstuffs ranging from French fries to baby food, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said on Monday. Reuters.

#### **[Lead poisoning an ongoing problem in Richmond's older homes.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

Richmond City Health District officials are stepping up efforts to reduce lead poisoning, reaching out to parents and physicians with reminders to have children younger than 6 tested, particularly those living in areas identified as high risk. Richmond Times-Dispatch, Virginia.

[See related articles about another program in Virginia: [Effort renewed to rid homes of lead](#), programs in New Jersey: [Vineland tackles lead problem in homes](#) and [Englewood signs 'lead-safe' pact](#) and in Wisconsin: [Getting the lead out](#)]

#### **[Rep. Israel bill wants cleanser ingredients listed.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

Household cleaners would have to carry labels with a full list of their ingredients - including potentially harmful chemicals like hydrochloric acid - under proposed federal legislation that would revamp what manufacturers must disclose on such everyday products. New York Newsday, New York.

#### **[Food packaging leaks BPA, phthalates.](#)**

Tuesday, July 07, 2009

At least 50 chemicals capable of interfering with hormones are permitted in packaging in the United States and the European Union, a recent study says. Toronto Globe and Mail,

Ontario.

[See a related article about BPA: [Health Canada detects BPA in jarred baby food](#)]

### **[How well do you know your milk?](#)**

*Monday, July 06, 2009*

The controversy over hormones in the food supply has been going on for years. Much of the controversy surrounds cows treated with recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST), sometimes called (rBGH). Springfield News-Leader, Missouri.

### **[Worried about mercury? It's easy to choose safer fish.](#)**

*Monday, July 06, 2009*

We've been told seafood is good for us because it's low in calories and fat, full of protein and packed with Omega-3s. But we've also been warned about the potentially harmful mercury content in fish. What's with the flip-flop advice? McClatchy Newspapers.

### **[Blood samples raise questions of privacy.](#)**

*Monday, July 06, 2009*

A challenge to the practice of storing babies' blood samples and allowing researchers to study them without parents' permission comes at a time when there is increasing interest in using millions of these "blood spots" for research into, for example, how genes and environmental factors interact, and whether early exposure to pollutants plays a role in cancer. Washington Post.

### **[Obese and malnourished.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

A report released last week shows that obesity is harming the health of millions of Americans, including children and teens. Baltimore Sun.

### **[Wind power has its own environmental problems.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

Wind power generation is expected to be a clean and environmentally friendly natural energy source, but a new kind of environmental problem has surfaced as infrasonic waves caused by windmills are suspected of causing health problems for some people.

### **[Disinfecting could make you sick.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

Advertisers cashing in on a newly germ-phobic nation may be doing more harm than good, say public health officials. Disinfectants, sanitizers, and other products promising to rid homes of "99.9% of bacteria" could actually be exposing us to nastier bugs, experts say. Auckland Sunday Star Times, New Zealand.

### **[Let there be dark.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

From the earliest camp fires to the Las Vegas strip, people worked to light up the night. Now, however, some are questioning whether cities are safer and individuals healthier in the bright world that technology has created. South Sebring News-Sun, Florida.

### **[Company to clean up mercury sites.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

EnerVest Operating LLC of Houston, a major operator of natural gas wells in the Monroe Gas Field, has agreed to remove all mercury meters and to clean up mercury-contaminated wetlands and other soils at gas production sites in Ouachita, Morehouse and Union parishes. Monroe News-Star, Louisiana.

### **[Coping with a toxic world.](#)**

*Sunday, July 05, 2009*

The five-day biennial meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association (INA) focused on Gene-Environment Interactions in Neurotoxicology. Jerusalem Post, Israel.

### **[Metabolic syndrome linked to breast cancer.](#)**

*Saturday, July 04, 2009*

New research suggests that a set of risk factors for heart disease and type 2 diabetes,

known as the metabolic syndrome, could be related to the risk of breast cancer in post-menopausal women. Reuters Health.

[See related articles: [Diet may lower breast cancer risk before menopause](#) and [Declines in US breast cancer rates not uniform](#)]

### **[Childhood physical abuse linked to cancer.](#)**

Saturday, July 04, 2009

The study, to be published July 15 in the journal *Cancer*, shows those individuals physically abused in childhood are more likely to develop cancer than those who have not been abused. Science Daily.

### **[Corrosive, stinking Chinese drywall may be radioactive.](#)**

Saturday, July 04, 2009

The final years of the U.S. housing boom and a series of Gulf Coast hurricanes created a golden opportunity for Chinese drywall manufacturers. That imported drywall is now at the center of complaints of foul odors seeping from walls. Los Angeles Times, California.

### **[Whose side are health advocacy groups on?](#)**

Saturday, July 04, 2009

Some of the most influential and vocal health experts belong to advocacy organizations such as the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the American Council on Science and Health. Who are they, and what do they stand for? Los Angeles Times, California.

### **[Decades on, water fluoridation still controversial.](#)**

Friday, July 03, 2009

The debate on whether fluoride in drinking water is poison or panacea started about four decades ago and in the years since, rather than going away, the controversy around the issue has only intensified. Epoch Times.

### **[Concerns over bisphenol A continue to grow.](#)**

Friday, July 03, 2009

New animal studies link the chemical bisphenol A, which leaches from such polycarbonate plastics and food can linings, with heart arrhythmias in females and permanent damage to a gene important for reproduction. The results suggest that even adult exposures may cause harm. Science News.

[See related articles: [BPA linked to cell damage in post-menopausal women but not men, younger women](#) and [BPA may reduce fertility in lab mice](#)]

### **[Garage sale sellers should know their inventory.](#)**

Friday, July 03, 2009

Before putting kids' toys or cribs out for sale at your garage sale, look them over. The federal Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act applies to you. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, New York.

### **[Building a better firework.](#)**

Friday, July 03, 2009

There is little argument that the chemicals used in fireworks can be hazardous to humans and the environment in large amounts. Experts say that a single Fourth of July fireworks event probably does not have a significant polluting effect on individuals but could harm those exposed to fireworks often. Newsweek.

### **[New waterways and species added to Utah mercury fish consumption advisory.](#)**

Thursday, July 02, 2009

Consumption advisories are being issued after state officials found elevated levels of mercury in new locations and in existing Utah waterways. Cedar City Spectrum, Utah.

[See related articles about contaminated fish in Southern California: [High mercury levels found in SoCal fish](#) and [SoCal Asian communities aim to weed out toxic fish](#), in Texas: [State warns against eating fish from Clear Creek](#), in the Great Lakes: [Anglers warned of toxins found in fish from Great Lakes](#) and in New York: [Fishing for danger: Poor people driven to catch and eat toxin-filled species](#), [No sign of threat: Don't expect gov't to issue warning of dangerous fishing](#) and [New York City to put up 250 toxic-fish warning signs](#)

[at fishing spots\]](#)

### [\*\*State must conduct review, hold hearings on latest coal-plant proposal.\*\*](#)

*Thursday, July 02, 2009*

The federal EPA has essentially told the state and Sunflower Electric Power Corp. to start over in considering a permit to build a coal-burning power plant in southwest Kansas. Lawrence Journal, Kansas.

### [\*\*Schizophrenia may be linked to immune system.\*\*](#)

*Thursday, July 02, 2009*

Three new genetic studies are providing some tantalizing hints about what causes schizophrenia. The studies found such changes in stretches of code involved in brain development, memory and the immune system. It raises the question that somehow the tendency to develop schizophrenia may have something to do with infections of mothers during pregnancy. All Things Considered, NPR.

### [\*\*Russian scientist helps eliminate toxic legacy.\*\*](#)

*Thursday, July 02, 2009*

Russian scientist Olga Speranskaya's research and push to inform the public about the toxic legacy of huge stockpiles of industrial chemicals and pesticides in the former Soviet Union led to the creation of a powerful environmental advocacy network in 11 former Soviet states. Voice of America.

### [\*\*Problem pregnancy 'autism risk.'\*\*](#)

*Thursday, July 02, 2009*

Complications during pregnancy and giving birth later in life may increase the risk of having a child with autism, a review of dozens of studies suggests. BBC.

### [\*\*The environmental toll of plastics.\*\*](#)

*Thursday, July 02, 2009*

From cell phones and computers to bicycle helmets and IV bags, plastic has molded society in many ways that make life both easier and safer. But it also has left harmful imprints on the environment and perhaps human health, according to a new compilation of articles by scientists from around the world. Environmental Health News.

### [\*\*Another reason to avoid lawn pesticides.\*\*](#)

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

Not only are the chemicals designed to poison insects, weeds and other pests toxic ... but the other so-called inert ingredients in pesticide mixtures may be as well. Daily Green.

### [\*\*A focus on particulate matter and health.\*\*](#)

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

An estimated 811,000 people worldwide die prematurely from exposure to elevated levels of particulate matter in cities, and a staggering 1.8 million are similarly affected by smoke from indoor solid fuel use. Environmental Science & Technology.

[See related articles: [Trouble with traffic](#) and [Bad breath](#)]

### [\*\*How hazardous are coal ash waste dams?\*\*](#)

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

Just how much of a hazard are the EPA's "high hazardous potential" coal ash waste impoundments to West Virginians? It depends on how close you live to the site. West Virginia Public Broadcasting, West Virginia.

[See a related article: [EPA allows TVA to dump spilled coal ash in Alabama](#)]

### [\*\*Vegetarians 'avoid more cancers.'\*\*](#)

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

Vegetarians are generally less likely than meat eaters to develop cancer but this does not apply to all forms of the disease, a major study has found. BBC.

### [\*\*Lead label prompts Target to pull lip gloss.\*\*](#)

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

Indiana state health officials reported Tuesday that elevated lead levels have been found in lip gloss products sold at Target stores. Lafayette Journal and Courier, Indiana.

**[Schools aim to control pests with less pesticide.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

The idea is called Integrated Pest Management, and while it has been around for decades, the federal government recently came up with a plan to reduce pesticide use in schools by 2015. St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Missouri.

**[The U.S. Food and Drug Administration risk assessment on lead in women's and children's vitamins is based on outdated assumptions.](#)**

*Wednesday, July 01, 2009*

The FDA's conclusion that Pb concentrations in commercial vitamin products pose no hazard to human health is based on outdated assumptions. It fails to consider recent literature on the potentially deleterious effects that low-level chronic Pb exposure may have on vulnerable populations. Environmental Health Perspectives.

*Most of the news articles above come from Environmental Health News,  
<http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/>.*

The Collaborative on Health and the Environment offers this information as a service but does not endorse any of the events, articles or announcements.

Companion bulletins are available for different audiences:

- For those interested in environmental health as it relates to learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>
- For those interested in environmental health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

While there is overlap with this bulletin, there are some events and announcements unique to those bulletins.

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Nancy Snow  
**Collaborative on Health and the Environment**

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