



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin September 23, 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.

ICEH Highlights

Children's Environmental Health Forum

Registration for the October 1 - 2 forum in Tukwila, Washington, is open. Speakers include many regional experts and the following national leaders:

- 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



Moderators include Elise Miller, MEd, formerly executive director of the Institute for Children's Environmental Health and currently the director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment. Visit the [forum web page](#) for more information.

Announcements

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

[EPA joins global call-to-action on radon cancer dangers.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is joining the World Health Organization's first global call-to-action on cancer risk from radon in homes.

[Safer chemicals campaign platform.](#)

The Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families campaign has published a platform for Reform of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The group invites organizations to sign the platform and join the campaign.

[H1N1 flu poster available for printing and posting.](#)

The World Health Organization has created a poster that may be hung up in businesses and shared with friends and relatives.

[Report: School Indoor Air Quality: State Policy Strategies for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environments.](#)

This report discusses how state policy can ensure that all K-12 schools address basic IAQ issues as part of their ongoing operations and maintenance activities.

[Report: Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices.](#)

There is much potential to reduce the nation's greenhouse gases through recycling, waste reduction, smart growth, and by reusing formerly contaminated sites including brownfields. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Safe Cosmetics video.](#)

Lead in lipstick, carcinogens in baby shampoo -- you've heard the rumors, now get the real story behind what's in your cosmetics and what you can do about it. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

[EPA launches fall tour to help Americans fight climate change and save money.](#)

This year's "Change the World, Start with Energy Star" fall campaign includes a national, multicity, multimedia tour of the Energy Star Exhibit House, which showcases energy-efficient products and practices. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA seeks comment on greener site cleanups.](#)

The US Environmental Protection Agency is seeking public comment on a new strategy that would make cleanups at hazardous waste sites greener. The Superfund Green Remediation Strategy is an initial effort to outline key actions and related activities that can be undertaken to promote green remediation and to reduce energy use.

[EPA meeting on Ottawa, Ohio, lead waste investigation Sept. 24, 7 p.m.](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5, Ohio EPA and local partners will host an open-house style public meeting on expanding the investigation into the extent of buried lead contamination in Ottawa, Ohio.

[Call for proposals: Greater Research Opportunities undergraduate fellowships.](#)

Fellowships for bachelor-level students in environmental fields of study will provide support for recipients' junior and senior years of undergraduate study and for an internship at an EPA facility during the summer between their junior and senior years. Applications must be received by December 10, 2009. US Environmental Protection Agency

[Job opening: Raleigh, North Carolina.](#)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a fixed-term, two-year appointment available for a medical officer. A minimum of 10 years postgraduate experience in national and international human environmental health research and/or training is required, with at least five years experience in establishing multidisciplinary, multilateral international programs on research and/or training desirable. The deadline for applications is October 2, 2009.

[Job opening: Milwaukee, Wisconsin.](#)

The Endometriosis Association is seeking an education program coordinator/associate director to manage and coordinate the Association's Education Program, including writing, copyediting, proofreading and producing/publishing literature, the website, and the volunteers, staff, and vendors involved in this work.

[Job opening: Tumwater, Washington.](#)

There is currently one opening for a project Health Services Consultant 4 (HSC 4) within the Epidemiology, Health Statistics and Public Health Laboratories Division, Non-Infectious Conditions Epidemiology Unit. This position is in the Biomonitoring for Protection of Public Health in Washington State project. The deadline is September 29, 2009.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Preventing Injury and Chronic Disease through Smart Growth Policy

Thursday September 24, 2009
2:30 - 4:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, National Association of County and City Health Officials and State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association

This webcast will be the first in a two-part series that will focus on the relationship

between injury and chronic disease prevention, Smart Growth, and community design. During this webcast, participants will learn more about Smart Growth policies and the proactive steps that public health practitioners can take to influence transportation and land-use decisions. Participants will also learn additional strategies they can use to ensure that public health is a primary consideration in community design. Our featured speaker will be Mary Lee, a practicing attorney and expert on housing, land use and community economic development. Ms. Lee is the associate director for PolicyLink, a nonprofit national research and action institute advancing economic and social equity.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 770-690-9000 or stipdainfo@stipda.org

2) 2009 Rachel Carson Legacy Conference

Friday September 25, 2009

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

at the Bidwell Training Center, 1815 Metropolitan Street

Sponsor: The Rachel Carson Homestead Association

The conference theme is "When Chemicals Disrupt: Managing Our Risks." This conference will address the dichotomy between critical protection of the environment (and our bodies and those of the next generations) from endocrine disrupting contaminants and the unbridled economic interest of those who produce substances which directly or indirectly act as endocrine or developmental disruptors. We seek an open dialogue with the objective of identifying a set of mechanisms that can have rapid effect on the control of endocrine disrupting substances flowing into the environment as bio-accumulating contaminants. Mounting scientific evidence on a global scale compels immediate and effective action. However, there is widespread disagreement on the best course of action, and in particular, on the role of regulation in accomplishing change. The conference will approach the topic of endocrine disruptors in three parts: policy, science and remedies. Speakers to date include Linda Birnbaum, PhD, MPH; Terry Collins, Ken Cook and many others.

Price: \$90; preregistration and prepayment are required

[Visit the website](#)

3) Creating Healthy Schools in Alaska: What You Need to Know to Protect Children from Toxic Exposures

Wednesday September 30, 2009

9:00 a.m. Alaska time / 10:00 a.m. Pacific time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment -- Alaska

Presenters will be Claire L. Barnett, executive director of the Healthy Schools Network, and Mike Schade, PVC Campaign coordinator of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice. For more information or to join this free call and receive dial-up instructions, please RSVP at the contact number below.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Alaska Community Action on Toxics, 907-222-7714

4) CHE Cafe: A Conversation with Author Doug Abrams

Wednesday September 30, 2009

11:00 a.m. Pacific / 2:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Join CHE Director Elise Miller for a conversation with Doug Abrams, author of the newly released novel *Eye of the Whale*. The novel weaves science throughout the story, addressing important issues of endocrine disruption and toxins. Abrams will talk about his writing process, how he included leading scientists, physicians and others in his research and why he chose to address the issues of endocrine disruption in his work.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: info@healthandenvironment.org

5) 2009 Uniting Public Health Conference

Wednesday through Friday, September 30 - October 2, 2009
Copper Mountain, Colorado
at the Copper Mountain Resort

Sponsor: Colorado Environmental Health Association, Colorado Public Health Association, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Caring for Colorado Foundation

This year, the Public Health in the Rockies Conference will join hands with the Colorado Environmental Health Association Conference to provide a week of education, professional networking, and many other special events. The mission of the Annual Education Conference is to provide high quality education opportunities while creating an environment that will develop, connect and build relationships between those who work collaboratively in the diverse sectors of environmental health.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact web page](#)

6) Community Indicators Consortium 2009 International Conference

Thursday and Friday, October 1 - 2, 2009
Bellevue, Washington
at the Meydenbauer Center

Sponsor: Community Indicators Consortium

The theme is "Community Indicators as Tools for Social Change," and the conference itself is organized into four focus areas and six topic areas. The focus areas are aspects of successful indicator initiatives that are important whenever indicators are used. The topic areas are specific areas of public planning and policy in which indicators are useful.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Community Indicators Consortium, 860-808-7487 or ED@communityindicators.net

7) Illinois Forum on Toxic Chemicals and Public Health

Friday October 2, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Chicago, Illinois
at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 S. Halsted, Illinois Room 'B'

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), and the Autism Society (ASA), in partnership with the Illinois Public Interest Research Group (IL PIRG), the Illinois Public Health Association, the Association for Individual Development (AID), and Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC

With a theme of "The Learning and Developmental Disability Community Takes Action!", speakers will include policymakers, medical professionals and concerned citizens. Space is limited, so to ensure your spot please preregister. The forum is open to the public. Two continuing education units will be awarded for nursing home administrator, social worker, speech and language pathologist and QMRP.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Brian Imus, 312-291-0441, ext. 210 or brian@illinoispirg.org

8) 4th International Public Conference on Vaccination

Friday through Sunday, October 2 - 4, 2009

Reston, Virginia

at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

Sponsor: National Vaccine Information Center with an educational grant from the Albert and Claire Dvoskin Family Foundation

This conference seeks to arm participants with facts from vaccine and health experts, to instruct about vaccine science, policy, law, ethics and politics, and to allow participants to meet fellow vaccine safety and choice activists in each state. The conference encourages participants to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: National Vaccine Information Center, 703-938-5768 or contactNVIC@gmail.com

9) 74th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Friday October 9, 2010

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association

Abstracts are sought for a variety of presentation formats, including lecture hall, learning laboratory and poster session. 2009 conference tracks included general environmental health, food safety and protection, terrorism and all-hazards preparedness, and sustainability.

Price:

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Denise Devotta, 303-756-9090 ext. 313 or ddevotta@neha.org

10) Capitol Hill Summit on Sustainable Communities, Environmental Justice and the New Economy

Thursday and Friday, October 15 - 16, 2009

Washington, DC

Sponsor: The Community Revitalization Alliance

Hosted by Representative John Conyers, the summit will convene organizations to seize this moment to impact the new green economy. In terms of recovery expenditures and other important appropriations, the Capitol Hill Summit will gather key constituencies and the Administration to address resolving economic, social and health disparities through sustainable infrastructure investments, jobs, wealth creation and resource commitments. The Capitol Hill Summit is a venue wherein the community sector frames and leads a public policy conversation among multi-stakeholders from the perspective of sustainable communities. Our concern is about people - families, children and workers who live in disadvantaged neighborhoods with unhealthy air and housing, vacant and

contaminated properties, unsafe parks, unreliable public transportation, limited grocery stores and healthy food options, and health disparities. Preregistration is requested.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sustainable Community Development Group, Inc., 202-637-2467 or info@SustainableCommunityDevelopmentGroup.org

11) 2009 National Mid-Year Conference on Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning, Implementing Healthy Homes Programs, and Combating Indoor Environmental Hazards

Thursday and Friday, October 15 - 16, 2009
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
at the Embassy Suites Philadelphia Airport

Sponsor: Healthy Housing Conferences

The conference brings together professionals from health, housing, community development, community groups, advocacy organizations, the lead industry, real estate firms and residential and commercial facilities to explore ways to undertake programs and projects designed to prevent incidents of lead poisoning and eliminate indoor environmental hazards.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Steve Weil, 301-924-0804

12) From International to Global Health: Why Health Around the World Concerns Us All

Thursdays from October 15 - November 19, 2009
7:00 - 8:45 p.m.
San Francisco, California
513 Parnassus Avenue

Sponsor: University of California San Francisco Osher Center for Integrative Medicine

The shift from the term "International Health" to "Global Health" reflects the fact that many health problems in "developing" countries with limited resources also affect "developed" countries with abundant resources. This course presents a framework for understanding complex global health problems and highlights how some of these problems are understood and confronted by those seeking to alleviate them. Topics include emerging infections such as H1N1 (swine flu) and SARS, the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the fight against malaria, and health as a human right. For each topic, implications for us (and the US), and how we all might get involved to help address these issues is discussed.

Price: \$75

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 415-476-4251

13) Climate Change and You: Putting a Face on Global Warming

Monday October 19 - Wednesday October 28, 2009

Sponsor: EcoRes Forum

The purpose of the EcoRes Forum E-Conference Series is to provide an easily accessible platform for moderated discussions among global stakeholders about the socio-cultural aspects of climate change. The forum includes several tracks, including one on health

and nutrition.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact web page](#)

14) Food Safety Webinar

Tuesday October 20, 2009

2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: Society for Public Health Education

A panel of three food safety experts will discuss the importance of food safety education and the role of the health educator during SOPHE's webinar focusing on this year's National Health Education Week theme, "Let's Dish: Food Safety at the Table." Resources available online and in print will emphasize the importance and relevance of food safety, explain the role of health education in food safety, and provide examples of how health educators can address this important topic in their communities. More specifically, a toolkit will outline recent food-safety news, identify common foodborne pathogens, highlight at-risk populations, and provide case examples of how to reach members of a community in a variety of settings. The toolkit will provide sample handouts and fact sheets as well as links to websites that offer additional educational resources. Tips for communicating with the media and spreading the word through social media (Twitter, Facebook, blogs, etc) will also be included.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 202-408-9804 or info@sophe.org

15) 2009 Lead Poisoning Prevention and Healthy Homes Conference

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wheaton, Illinois

at the DuPage County Administration Building, Building #421, 111 North County Farm Road

Sponsor: Illinois Department of Public Health

This conference is held to assist environmental professionals, renovation contractors, and home property managers in identifying home health risks and improving maintenance and remodeling practices while maintaining a healthy home environment for occupants. Sessions will focus primarily on exposure to lead and home toxicants that may cause short- and long-term health effects as a result of these exposures. This conference will cover the US Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Vicky Ritz, 217-785-4475 or vicky.ritz@illinois.gov

16) Perspectives from UK/US Policymakers on Obesity Prevention

Thursday October 22, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Washington, DC

at the Institute of Medicine Keck Building, 500 5th Street, NW, Room 100

Sponsor: The Institute of Medicine, the UK Department of Health and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The workshop will provide insight to the similarities and differences between how the US and UK address obesity prevention and a forum for comparative understanding of obesity-related policies. In turn, this workshop can provide shared discussion on the possible solutions from each country to confront the obesity epidemic. Preregistration is requested.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Institute of Medicine, 202-334-2352 or iomwww@nas.edu

News and Journal Articles

[**Aluminum hydroxide injections lead to motor deficits and motor neuron degeneration.**](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

A second series of experiments was conducted on mice injected with six doses of aluminum hydroxide. Behavioural analyses in these mice revealed significant impairments in a number of motor functions as well as diminished spatial memory capacity. *Journal of Inorganic Biochemistry*.

[See a related article: [Benefit and doubt in vaccine additive](#)]

[**The case for bans on smoking.**](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

The growing numbers of bans on smoking in restaurants, bars and workplaces, intended to protect nonsmokers against second-hand-tobacco smoke, are turning into potent weapons in the battle to prevent heart attacks. *Wall Street Journal*.

[See related articles: [Second-hand smoking results in liver disease, study finds](#) and [Secondhand smoke risks underestimated, survey finds](#)]

[**National Autistic Society comes off the fence: MMR isn't linked to autism.**](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

A leading British organization supporting people with autism and their families has until now remained agnostic about links between the MMR vaccine and autism. No longer. It has issued a new statement asserting that MMR is not associated with the condition. *London Times, United Kingdom*.

[See related articles: [Flu vaccine rekindles debate over connection to autism](#) and [Vaccine skepticism is in the air](#)]

[**GAO audit: Schools slow to get alerts about tainted food.**](#)

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Federal agencies that supply food for 31 million schoolchildren fail to ensure that tainted products are pulled quickly from cafeterias, a federal audit obtained by USA TODAY finds. *USA Today*.

[**Cancer-causing chemical found in SA.**](#)

Monday, September 21, 2009

A known groundwater contaminant [MTBE], banned in Denmark and the subject of class-action lawsuits throughout the US, and which can cause cancer if consumed in high doses, has been found in groundwater throughout South Africa. *Cape Town Cape Times, South Africa*.

[**On the children's menu: dangerous levels of salt.**](#)

Monday, September 21, 2009

Children's menu items at popular restaurant chains across Canada contain dangerously high amounts of sodium -- in many cases, enough to raise a child's risk of developing high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and other serious health problems. *Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario*.

[**Study puts pesticide's safety in spotlight once again.**](#)

Monday, September 21, 2009

Overseas research has discredited the safety assessment data used by the national pesticides authority to justify using one of the world's most toxic crop sprays, endosulfan. Sydney Morning Herald, Australia.

[What's in your water?](#)

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Residents turning on the tap can expect their water to meet federal and state regulations, but that might not mean the water is free from contaminants, water experts say. Opinions vary on whether tap water is safe to drink. Chattanooga Times Free Press, Tennessee.

[St. Jude Hospital study links Parkinson's, bird flu.](#)

Sunday, September 20, 2009

In a study offering tantalizing clues into the origins of a devastating and mysterious ailment, researchers concluded that people who survive a strain of bird flu have a significantly greater risk of developing Parkinson's disease. Nashua Telegraph, New Hampshire.

[S.F. takes green issue to dry cleaners.](#)

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Your dry cleaner may claim to be "green" or "environmentally friendly," but San Francisco officials warn that the business is probably using a hazardous chemical solvent [perchloroethylene] that could be harming you, your cleaner and the environment. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Jury rejects Santa Rosa water contamination suit.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

After hearing nearly four months of testimony from water contamination experts, a Sonoma County jury took just two hours Thursday to reject a \$600 million well-poisoning lawsuit filed by several west Santa Rosa residents. Santa Rosa Press Democrat, California.

[Waste incineration health risks low, panelists claim.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

A European Union toxicology expert says a modern garbage incinerator should pose no significant health hazard to nearby residents, particularly when stacked against more plentiful but mundane sources of toxins. BC Local News, British Columbia.

[Call for murder charges to be brought over toxic dumping.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

Trafigura, the oil-trading company at the centre of the scandal caused by the dumping of tons of toxic waste in one of the world's poorest countries, could be prosecuted for murder. London Independent, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Ivory Coast toxic-dump case settled, company says](#)]

[Gov't stands by as mercury taints water.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

Abandoned mercury mines throughout central California's rugged coastal mountains are polluting the state's major waterways, rendering fish unsafe to eat and risking the health of at least 100,000 impoverished people. Associated Press.

[Acrylamide: Why French fries shouldn't be overheated.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

America's most popular vegetables -- golden brown French fries and crispy potato chips - - aren't just loaded with fat and sodium. Starchy fried foods also can contain a chemical called acrylamide that is quietly raising concern as a potential human carcinogen. Chicago Tribune, Illinois.

[Health ills abound as farm runoff fouls wells.](#)

Friday, September 18, 2009

Runoff from all but the largest farms is essentially unregulated by many of the federal laws intended to prevent pollution and protect drinking water sources. New York Times.

[Detox! The movement to reform chemicals policy.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

We live, eat, and breathe in a complex brew of industrial chemicals, some eighty thousand of them. And all but a handful have never been tested to find out if they're safe. A World of Possibilities.

[Individual characteristics associated with PBDE levels in US human milk samples.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

PBDEs were detected in nearly all human milk samples, varying by maternal weight and age, and over the course of breastfeeding. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Should we be worried about trace carcinogens in shampoos if the government says they're not toxic?](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

You won't spot it on ingredient lists, but the Organic Consumers Association found 1,4-dioxane in 46 per cent of "natural" and "organic" branded shampoos, body washes and hand soaps tested. Now Toronto, Ontario.

[U.S. reconsiders Bush-era smog pollution standards.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Wednesday it would reconsider Bush-era standards for smog pollution that have been slammed by environmentalists for not being aggressive enough. Reuters.

[Cell phones: Precautions recommended.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Several government bodies around the world suggest that anyone who uses a cell phone would be well advised to keep a little distance between the phone and their body. And when people need to make a call, they should minimize radiation exposures by phoning only where reception is really good. Science News.

See related articles: [Cell-phone radiation risks: why the jury's still out](#), [Cell phones: Feds probing health impacts](#), [Study reveals how much cellphone radiation you're getting](#) and [An online tool to rate cellphone radiation](#) and watch US Senate hearings on cell-phone and health: [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on the health effects of cell phone use](#)]

[New web site offers toxic chemicals tally on numerous consumer products.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

A new Web site that rates consumer products on their toxic chemical content launched Wednesday, providing information on goods ranging from automobiles and pet products to school supplies and women's accessories. Contra Costa Times, California.

[See a related article: [Study finds toxic chemicals in pet toys](#)]

[Effort to ban BPA in California fails.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

In February, a bill was introduced to ban BPA from infant formula cans and baby bottles and cups. Last week that bill failed to pass in the Assembly. Why? San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[Chemical pollutants linked to fewer female births.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

High exposure to PCBs and PBBs, now-banned industrial chemicals that persist in the environment, may lead to fewer female births, a new study suggests. What this means for the public at large is unknown. Reuters Health.

[Fight grows over labels on household cleaners.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Manufacturers of detergents, household cleansers and furniture polish are under pressure from consumers to come clean about the chemicals in their products. Some have been associated with asthma, birth defects and fertility problems in higher doses. New York Times.

[Low lead levels harming children.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Researchers say the toxic effects of lead on the central nervous system of young children are obvious even below the current so-called safe level of lead in the blood. They are recommending the threshold should be halved. BBC.

[See related articles: [Lead in bone associated with increased risk of death from cardiovascular disease in men](#), [Children 'exposed to dangerous levels of lead from soil'](#) and [Ashland U. chemist keeps kids unleaded](#)]

[Environmental group reveals toxic chemicals in consumer products.](#)

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Some tennis balls for dogs, chew toys for cats and women's plastic handbags were among the common household items found to contain lead and other toxic chemicals in recent tests, a nonprofit environmental group reported on Wednesday. New York Times.

[EPA turns the lights on mountaintop removal.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

In a highly anticipated announcement, the EPA declared that all seventy-nine pending mountaintop removal mining permits in four states would "likely cause water quality impacts" and sent them on for additional review under the Clean Water Act. The Nation.

[Doctors warn on climate failure.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Failure to agree on a new UN climate deal in December will bring a "global health catastrophe", say 18 of the world's professional medical organisations. BBC.

[Baby born with defect every 30 seconds in China.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Recent statistics show that birth defects among newborns have been climbing in certain parts of Mainland China. The leading contributors are suspected to be pollution, genetics, radioactivity, and the older age of mothers. Epoch Times.

[Pocket-size pollution sensors promise big improvement in monitoring personal environment.](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

Is black carbon soot emitted by school buses raising childhood asthma rates? Technology to track what children are exposed to -- and when, where and for how long -- can now fit in the palm of your hand. Scientific American.

[See a related article: [Texas air rules violate federal law, EPA says](#)]

[Are our playgrounds and parking lots safe?](#)

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

A cancer-causing sealant [coal tar] that covers thousands of parking lots, school playgrounds and driveways in Austin and Travis County has officials debating over its effect on human health. Austin Oak Hill Gazette, Texas.

[Many plastic shoes toxic -- study.](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

In its study titled "Chemicals Up Close", the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation found "disturbing concentrations" of phthalates in a variety of plastic-based flip-flops, sandals, clogs, and other shoes. Quezon City ABS-CBN News, Philippines.

[Washington compiling top 50 chemicals toxic to kids.](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

In 2008, Washington became the first state in the nation to pass a law requiring manufacturers to report whether certain products contain chemicals toxic to children. Associated Press.

[Is swimming pool chlorine fueling the allergy epidemic?](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Swimming in a chlorinated pool may boost the odds that a child susceptible to asthma and allergies will develop these problems, a study released today indicates. Reuters.

[Victims of Seveso disaster face higher risk from some cancers.](#)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

People exposed to one of the world's worst industrial accidents, in which dioxin spewed out over the north Italian town of Seveso, face a higher risk of developing several kinds of cancer, a study said on Monday. Agence France-Presse.

[See related articles: [Dioxin in Agent Orange still polluting South Vietnam, study says](#) and [Study questions dioxin's link to cancer](#)]

[Poisons found in debris landfills.](#)

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ohio's 55 debris landfills offer a cheap, final resting place for the millions of tons of waste created at construction and demolition sites each year. But there's a price. Columbus Dispatch, Ohio.

[Pesticide sought by Calif. growers.](#)

Monday, September 14, 2009

A highly potent chemical [methyl iodide] capable of clearing farmland of pests, disease and weeds is attracting fierce opposition from environmental groups and some scientists in California -- even as growers look to it as a crucial replacement for a banned fumigant [methyl bromide]. Fresno Bee, California.

[Mapping the epigenome.](#)

Monday, September 14, 2009

Growing recognition of the importance of epigenetic processes in human development and disease has fueled an insatiable thirst for new technologies to detect epigenetic modifications on a genomewide, or "epigenomic," scale. Chemical & Engineering News.

[Testing for toxics at schools sparks questions, lawsuit.](#)

Monday, September 14, 2009

Almost a year after tests by USA TODAY found significant levels of two potentially toxic metals in the air around an Allegheny River valley school, local health officials expanded their own monitoring efforts. Why? Air samples taken this year showed even higher levels of the metals than what USA TODAY found. USA Today.

[See related articles: [Report suggests toxic air near Minnesota schools](#) and [Potentially toxic air stirs concern, debate at Highlands H.S.](#)]

[Advocates tout pesticide ban.](#)

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Calgary is lagging behind other major Canadian cities in protecting residents from the cancer-causing toxic, cosmetic pesticides, say advocates. Calgary Sun, Alberta.

[Clean water laws are neglected, at a cost to health.](#)

Sunday, September 13, 2009

In the past five years, companies and workplaces have violated pollution laws more than 500,000 times. But the vast majority of polluters have escaped punishment. New York Times.

[Falling age of puberty in girls presents health risk.](#)

Saturday, September 12, 2009

The shift towards early puberty in girls is a public-health problem. Early puberty opens the window of exposure to estrogen in girls and increases the risk of breast cancer, which strikes one in eight U.S. women. Burlington Free Press, Vermont.

[Born to be big.](#)

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Evidence has been steadily accumulating that certain hormone-mimicking pollutants, ubiquitous in the food chain, act on genes in the fetus and newborn to make more fat cells, which stay with you for life. And they may alter metabolic rate, so that the body hoards calories rather than burning them. Newsweek.

[Nearly any lifetime smoking ups breast cancer risk.](#)

Friday, September 11, 2009

Women taking the next puff of a cigarette might consider this: smoking 100 or more cigarettes may substantially increase their odds of developing breast cancer, researchers report. Reuters Health.

[See a related article: [Multiple factors impact adolescent smoking risk](#)]

[Army offers more monitoring of chemicals in Colorado.](#)

Friday, September 11, 2009

The Army is offering to improve monitoring of deadly mustard agent stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot as it negotiates with Colorado health officials suing over leaks. Associated Press.

[New trial rejected in Kiddie Kollege case.](#)

Friday, September 11, 2009

A judge rejected a motion yesterday to retry an issue in the case of the contaminated Kiddie Kollege day care, saying he was convinced the building's owners were unaware of the hazards when they rented out the former thermometer factory. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Hispanics face high cancer risk from breathing household chemical.](#)

Friday, September 11, 2009

Hispanics have a cancer risk from air pollutants as much as five times the rate of others living in the same cities. But it isn't outdoor air posing the greatest danger; it is something much closer to home: Toilet deodorizers and moth repellents in their bathrooms and closets. Researchers call for a ban on the carcinogenic chemical used in the consumer products. Environmental Health News.

[At long last, environmental supplement to GDP takes shape.](#)

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Yesterday, the European Union announced plans to launch an indicator this year to measure environmental stress. The index will reflect the pollution and environmental harm within the bloc's member states. Greenwire.

[Traffic noise hurts.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

The rumbling of cars, trucks and trains isn't just annoying; it can raise your blood pressure. Los Angeles Times.

[Supervise children's use of hand sanitizer, experts say.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

As the popularity of alcohol-based hand sanitizer has risen, so has a debate about whether its germ-fighting ability outweighs potential risks that the alcohol-based cleansers may pose to youngsters if ingested. Houston Chronicle, Texas.

[Sussex County school to close due to unsafe power lines near playground.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

As PSE&G seeks state approval to build a high-voltage power line through four New Jersey counties, reviving a heated debate about the safety of electromagnetic fields, officials in one Sussex County town say they have no choice but to close their only school because of elevated EMF levels produced by lines already in place. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

[Toxicity testing gets a makeover.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

The European Commission has revealed details of a major new research programme to develop a modern, high-throughput approach to repeat-dose toxicity testing. Nature.

[Low dose makes the poison.](#)

Wednesday, September 09, 2009

Modern toxicology doesn't typically test chemicals for what they do at low doses. But, sometimes, small amounts of substances can be harmful to human health, especially when it comes to the hormone-mimicking chemicals known as endocrine disruptors. Living On Earth.

Most of the news articles above come from [Environmental Health News](#).

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.

If you would like to join the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE) and the ICEH Working Group, please complete the application on the CHE website: <http://www.healthandenvironment.org/application> Joining CHE means receiving up to four email messages a month from the CHE National listserv. CHE costs nothing to join and the benefit is shared information and opportunities for further engagement, if you choose. Be sure to mark that you want to join the Initiative on Children's Environmental Health Working Group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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