



Initiative on Children's Environmental Health

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



Biweekly Bulletin September 9, 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

Early bird registration for the October 1 - 2 forum in Tukwila, Washington, continues through September 9th. 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.

New members

The Initiative on Children's Environmental Health welcomes these new members:

- Robbie Holden, MA, Newark, New Jersey
- Donna Nelson, MS, RD, Chicago, Illinois
- Rebecca Page, Seattle, Washington
- Teresa Washington, PhD, Silver Spring, Maryland

Announcements

A daily news feed with articles and announcements is available on CHE's website:

<http://www.healthandenvironment.org/news/announce>.

[World Library of Toxicology, Chemical Safety and Environmental Health.](#)

This free global Web portal provides the scientific community and public with links to major government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, universities, professional societies, and other groups addressing issues related to toxicology, public health, and environmental health. WLT was created by Toxipedia, in partnership with the USA National Library of Medicine (NLM), the International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX), and the Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders (INND).

[Smart Growth Tool Kit.](#)

The Smart Growth Tool Kit is meant to provide state and territorial health officials with an easily accessible guide for information on different smart growth principles as well as real life examples of what different communities around the country are doing.

[New website: State Laws Related to Healthy Homes.](#)

There is no federal housing code, building code, or health code; states and localities are

left to set standards and fill the gaps. The National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Conference of State Legislatures have partnered to identify and analyze the state laws that impact healthy homes.

[EPA seeks public input on National Enforcement Priorities through online forum.](#)

The public will be able to provide feedback through the EPA Web site until December 1, giving them a forum to submit ideas for EPA to consider for new areas of enforcement focus. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Report on Carcinogens background document on formaldehyde.](#)

RoC announces the availability of the draft background document for formaldehyde, request for comments and expert panel meeting November 2 - 4, 2009. US Department of Health and Human Services National Toxicology Program.

[Lead poisoning prevention video contest.](#)

Create a 30- to 60-second video that will inform and motivate people to take steps that will help prevent lead poisoning. Tell your own story, or show how to take steps to prevent lead poisoning in older homes and schools. Entries must be received by October 1, 2009, at 12 noon EDT.

[EPA hosts five free brownfields workshops in September for 2010 competition.](#)

Each half-day workshop is designed to cover the basics of submitting a proposal to the EPA Brownfields Program and offers guidance for improving the quality of a proposal. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[Alice Shabecoff articles online.](#)

Alice Shabecoff, co-author of "Poisoned Profits: The Toxic Assault on our Children", has begun publishing regularly on environmental health issues on a blog on MomsRising.org. This blog, intended for new mothers, covers a wide range of issues, with Alice's postings focused on environmental health.

["Eye of the Whale" published.](#)

Douglas Abrams's new novel explores the effects of pollutants on both whale and human health in the format of a thriller novel.

[One Health Commission formed to promote collaboration across human, animal, and environmental health sciences.](#)

A new national commission, the One Health Commission, has been established to spotlight the connections between human, animal, and environmental health, as well as the benefits of proactive and collaborative approaches toward better health for all.

[EPA seeks comments on new information about geologic sequestration of carbon dioxide.](#)

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA protects underground sources of drinking water from threats related to injection activities. The new information supplements the agency's 2008 proposed rule that, if finalized, would create a new class of injection well and establish requirements under the authority of the SDWA to ensure that geologic sequestration activities do not endanger drinking water sources. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA announces new steps to protect Americans from lead poisoning. Actions to reduce overall exposures to lead.](#)

The steps announced today are 1) additional proposed requirements to protect children from lead-based paint, 2) a new effort to ban the manufacture of lead in tire weights, and 3) a lead poisoning prevention video contest, asking people to submit videos demonstrating steps that can be taken to prevent childhood lead poisoning. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[New report: Cellphones and Brain Tumors.](#)

Groups affiliated with the report include Powerwatch and the EM Radiation Research Trust in the UK, and the EMR Policy Institute, ElectromagneticHealth.org and The Peoples Initiative Foundation in the US. The report is available as a free download.

[Job opening: San Francisco.](#)

The Women's Foundation of California seeks a development and communications associate as the primary writer of external communications and the steward of their online community.

[Job opening: Chicago.](#)

The Healthy Schools Campaign (HSC) is seeking a public policy manager to implement the organization's state and federal policy agenda. The position requires at least five years of post-college experience working on issue advocacy campaigns.

Upcoming Events

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

1) Environmental Awareness: Maintaining a Green Planet

Wednesday September 9, 2009

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Sponsor: Milwaukee LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Community Center

This first session is titled "Series Introduction: The Environmentally Friendly Home", and the topic for the October 21st session is "Healthy, Earth-Friendly Interiors." Monthly sessions are being scheduled at least through August 2010. Each workshop session will provide participants with a site tour of a facility or examination of products, a question-and-answer period, a special hands-on activity, and resource and referral lists. Sessions will be limited to twenty participants on a first-registered, first-served basis.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Patrick Price, 414-292-3065 or pprice@mkelgbt.org

2) A Critical Link: The Environment and Women's Health

Thursday September 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Burlington, Vermont

at Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center

Sponsor: Planned Parenthood of Northern New England with funding from Seventh Generation, Main Street Landing Performing Arts Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, The John Merck Fund and The Ceres Trust

In recent years there has been an increased awareness of the connections between environmental contaminants, fertility, and health - and a growing body of evidence supporting these concerns that link reduced fertility to pregnancy loss, adverse birth outcomes, reproductive tract abnormalities, learning disabilities in children, and various cancers to environmental contaminants. It is becoming increasingly clear to those of us who work for women's health that we must begin to turn our attention to the environmental toxicants that are affecting the ability of couples to become pregnant, have a healthy pregnancy, and give birth to healthy children. At Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, we feel a responsibility as a health-care organization to help our patients and communities make the link between human health and the products we put in our bodies, and in our homes and schools. The keynote address will be given by Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

Price: \$60, students \$35, \$80 if CEUs are awarded.

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see [the contact page](#)

3) Reasons to Explore Smoke-Free Housing

Thursday September 10, 2009

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

Sponsor: Green Communities and National Center for Healthy Housing

Smoke-free apartment policies are quickly becoming the standard for multi-unit housing in the US. These policies can help you save money, reduce tenant complaints, improve the health of your tenants and building, and increase your market share. The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently issued a policy directive that strongly recommended public housing authorities adopt smoke-free policies. Over 100 housing authorities have already gone smoke-free, as well as thousands of other landlords. This session brings together national experts and practitioners for a dialogue around implementing smoke-free policies for multi-unit buildings. Register for the WebEx session [online](#).

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

4) 7th Annual Children's Environmental Health Conference

Friday September 11, 2009

Baltimore, Maryland

at the Mt. Washington Conference Center

Sponsor: Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health and the Environment (MACCHE)

This conference enables MACCHE to advance its goals of working with regional partners to mitigate the adverse impact of environmental pollutants on the health of children within the Mid Atlantic states and beyond.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

5) Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet

Saturday and Sunday, September 12 - 13, 2009

Newark, New Jersey

at the University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey Medical School

Sponsor: University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, The Autism Center, The Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Vital Interventions Accessible

Saving Our Kids, Healing Our Planet is at the forefront of a new movement focused on sustainable living practices and safe and effective methods for preventing and recovering our children from ADHD, autism, allergies, asthma, obesity, diabetes etc. It is a forum where parents, teachers, therapists and physicians gather and learn from leading experts about safe and effective methods for preventing and treating many of the chronic conditions affecting our children today. Continuing education credits are available.

Price: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door; children 15 and under are free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Maureen McDonnell, RN, 609-240-1315

6) Ninth International Healthy Buildings Conference and Exhibition

Sunday through Thursday, September 13 - 17, 2009

Syracuse, New York

at the Oncenter Complex

Sponsor: International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate, Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental and Energy Systems

This conference will provide a forum for exchange of leading research and technology developments, a unique opportunity to share information on your company's innovative products and services, and an extraordinary venue to network with national and global leaders and professionals in the fields of indoor air quality and healthy built environments.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [Contacts page](#)

7) A Tale of Three Neurotoxins: Lead, Tobacco, and Maternal Depression

Tuesday September 15, 2009

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

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' Environmental Health Initiative

This presentation reviews what is known, and what we recognize that we still do not know, about the effects of low-level lead exposure, prenatal tobacco and postnatal secondhand smoke exposure, and maternal depression on child behavior and development. Although the research and knowledge bases concerning these extremely common childhood exposures with extensive negative effects have developed separately, with different investigators and publications in disparate literatures and fields, their epidemiology (distribution, determinants and consequences) are quite similar, and even more worrisome, they tend to cluster and co-occur in the same children. At the end of this presentation the audience will have a much better appreciation of the risks for being exposed to, and the consequences of each of these exposures, as well as strategies for prevention and treatment. The speaker will be Michael Weitzman, MD, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at New York University School of Medicine.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, Laura@aaidd.org

8) Healthy Homes Conference

Tuesday through Thursday, September 15 - 17, 2009

Boise, Idaho

at the WGI Auditorium, 720 Park Boulevard

Sponsor: Idaho Healthy Homes Network

The Healthy Homes Conference brings together presenters to discuss the connection between health and housing and how to take a comprehensive approach to identify and resolve problems; new federal regulations requiring control of lead-based paint hazards during renovation, repair and painting; special considerations for children's health; health concerns related to housing, including radon and mold; public and private program funding for health and housing programs; housing code development and enforcement; relationship between green, energy-efficient and healthy housing; collaboration between health, housing and environmental professionals to develop state and local healthy homes programs. The conference is designed for professionals or students working in the areas of affordable housing, community service delivery, and environmental public health; people who provide health or inspection services of any type; agency, department, and division heads; child-care providers; Head Start agencies; community police officers; code officials; builders/renovators and others

Price: \$36

[Visit the website](#)

9) Biology and Control of Insects and Rodents

Monday and Tuesday September 21 - 22, 2009

Okoboji, Iowa

at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

Sponsor: Environmental Health Services Branch of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health

This program includes lecture and group discussion on the biology of insects and rodents of public health significance; effective physical and chemical insect and rodent control methods (including integrated pest and sanitation management); and insect and rodent-borne diseases of public health significance, including possible Bio-terror agents. This course is offered as a preconference workshop for the Region IV NEHA Conference. Deadline to register is September 4th.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Susan Jerles, sjerles@neha.org

10) Fifth International Conference on the Impact of Environmental Factors on Health

Monday through Wednesday, September 21 - 23, 2009

New Forest, England United Kingdom

at the Wessex Institute, Ashurst Lodge

Sponsor: Wessex Institute of Technology: Transactions on Biomedicine and Health

Health problems related to the environment have become a major source of concern all over the world. The conference aims to provide a forum for the dissemination and exchange of information on the diverse aspects of the impact of environmental factors on health across different disciplines.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Rachel Swinburn, 44-0-238-029-3223 or rswinburn@wessex.ac.uk

11) 2009 Region IV NEHA Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, September 23 - 24, 2009

Okoboji, Iowa

at the Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center

Sponsor: National Environmental Health Association Region 4, Iowa Environmental Health Association

This conference offers two days of continuing education and networking opportunities for environmental health professionals. Conference tracks and sessions include food safety, housing and health, disinfection, environmental public health tracking and more.

Price: see the [registration form](#)

[Visit the website](#)

12) 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](#)

13) 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

14) 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](#)

15) Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum

Thursday and Friday, October 1 - 2, 2009

Tukwila (near Seattle), Washington
at the Tukwila Community Center

Sponsor: Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, Public Health -

Seattle & King County, Washington State Department of Ecology's Hazardous Substance Information and Education Office, the United States Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10, the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Through policy-making, research and individual action, governments, nonprofit organizations, private business, educational institutions and individuals can work together to protect our children and our future. To highlight the importance of children's environmental health and to foster such new partnerships and initiatives, the Washington chapter of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE-WA) is planning a two-day Children's Environmental Health Forum. Thursday will primarily focus on science, and Friday will feature policy and practice.

Price: see the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Julia Berg, Julia.Berg@kingcounty.gov

16) 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

17) 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.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

18) 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

19) 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

News and Journal Articles

[Inhaling a heart attack: How air pollution can cause heart disease.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

University of Michigan tests show short-term exposure to fine particle air pollution can drive up high blood pressure, raise risk of heart attack. Reuters.

[See related articles: [Carbon monoxide linked to heart problems in elderly](#), [Air pollution killing 24,000 every year](#), [No safe harbor: The shipping industry's pollution problem part 1: Low-hanging fruit](#), [Residential exposure to traffic and spontaneous abortion](#), [Cutting city traffic may improve kids' lung health](#), [Idling parents risk fines this school year](#), [Signs prod bus drivers to turn off engines](#) and [Feds, Illinois sue Midwest Generation to stop air pollution](#)]

[How cigarette smoke in your carpet could harm your baby.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Is that nasty ash-tray tang that lingers on car-seat fabric, curtains in homes and the clothes of the nicotine addict strong enough to damage other people's health? According to some experts, third-hand smoke, as it is known, is dangerous. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See a related article: [Epigenetic changes associated with prenatal tobacco exposure](#)]

[US, Vietnam begin 4th annual meetings on eradicating Agent Orange.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

Vietnam urged the U.S. to do speed funding for Agent Orange victims Tuesday at the start of the fourth annual meeting on joint efforts to clean up areas that American forces contaminated with the toxic herbicide during the Vietnam War. Associated Press.

[Risk from mercury in 'silver' fillings still prompts dental debate.](#)

Tuesday, September 08, 2009

In 2005 alone, dentists in the U.S. plugged 52 million holes in our teeth with "silver" -- which is mostly mercury. Scientists know that vigorous chewing releases small amounts

of mercury vapor from amalgam fillings. But can long-term exposure to these low levels of mercury lead to health problems? Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio.

[Climate change boosts ultraviolet risk.](#)

Monday, September 07, 2009

Climate change will disrupt Earth's precious ozone layer, boosting ultraviolet radiation in the deep southern hemisphere and reducing UV in far northern latitudes, a study warns. Agence France-Presse.

[See related articles: [Hijacked by climate change?](#) and [National Wildlife Federation. Physicians for Social Responsibility say global warming will affect minorities, the poor in cities the most](#)]

[Hello baby, goodbye chemicals.](#)

Monday, September 07, 2009

My Toxic Baby is a lyrical account of one woman's journey down the rabbit hole of the chemically saturated world we inhabit, even in utero. Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[NAACP hold rally: claims toxic well poisoned black families.](#)

Sunday, September 06, 2009

For years, the Holt family has claimed poisons from a local landfill have been causing deadly diseases, including cancer. The NAACP is rallying behind them in a fight they say is really for all Americans. Nashville WTVF TV, Tennessee.

[PCB risk feared at older N.E. schools.](#)

Sunday, September 06, 2009

Window and masonry caulking in hundreds of older schools in New England probably contain very high levels of now-banned toxins that can gradually be released into the air, posing a potential health risk to students and staff, environmental specialists say. Boston Globe, Massachusetts.

[The Pine River Statement: Human health consequences of DDT use.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

Although we provide evidence to suggest that DDT and DDE may pose a risk to human health, we also highlight the lack of knowledge about human exposure and health effects in communities where DDT is currently being sprayed for malaria control. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Ford settles N.J. toxic waste lawsuit.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

The Ford Motor Co. has settled a lawsuit filed by residents of a northern New Jersey town over toxic waste dumped there nearly 40 years ago. Associated Press.

[Lead-tainted toys linger on shelves despite law.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

At many discount toy stores in this country, products that test at dangerously high levels for lead are still on the shelves -- despite a new federal law to protect children. National Public Radio.

[See related articles: [Toys 'R' Us offers discounts in exchange for used items](#), [Critics hit Mattel over lack of 3rd-party tests](#) and [Is there lead in this soother?](#)]

[Chemical found in baby shampoos not toxic: Health Canada.](#)

Saturday, September 05, 2009

Health Canada on Friday concluded that a chemical considered a possible carcinogen and commonly found in trace amounts in baby shampoo, bubble bath and liquid soap should not be listed as toxic to human health. Canwest News Service.

[N.J. teaching safer way to dry-clean.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

New Jersey's push to make dry cleaners use fewer toxic chemicals is continuing with officials holding training sessions throughout the state on converting to greener cleaning methods. Bergen County Record, New Jersey.

[Incinerators 'do not pose health risk' say Government scientists.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

A Health Protection Agency (HPA) report said there was an "exceedingly low" chance of incinerators causing cancer, giving a huge boost to councils across the country wanting to build facilities close to homes. Oxford Times, United Kingdom.

[EPA shows 30 percent drop in release of toxics.](#)

Friday, September 04, 2009

Production slowdowns are the likely reason Northwest Indiana polluters released 30 percent less toxics in 2008 compared to the year before, according to a Post-Tribune analysis of preliminary data from the U.S. EPA. Merrillville Post-Tribune, Indiana.

[State targets pregnant smokers.](#)

Thursday, September 03, 2009

Health officials are "going gangbusters" with smoking cessation efforts as more than a quarter of pregnant West Virginians smoke, a state tobacco prevention official says. Charleston Daily Mail, West Virginia.

[How little PVC is too much?](#)

Thursday, September 03, 2009

The Canadian public interest group Environmental Defence, working with the Center for Health, Environment and Justice in the U.S., has released a back-to-school buyer's guide for parents wanting to ensure their children return to class with products that won't harm their health or the planet's. CBC Canada.

[See a related article: [Lunch box? Check. Safe lunch box? Hmmm...](#)]

['Pacific Garbage Patch' expedition finds plastic, plastic everywhere.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Scientists returning from an expedition to the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" found a nearly inconceivable amount of tiny, confettilike pieces of broken plastic. They also discovered tiny jellyfish eating bits of the plastic debris. The jellyfish are, in turn, eaten by fish like salmon or tuna which people eat. San Jose Mercury News, California.

[Images suggest childhood lead exposure causes faulty brain wiring.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Exposure to low to moderate levels of lead before birth and as a child can permanently change the brain's structure in a way that may alter if and how it transmits messages, a new study finds. Environmental Health News.

[Keeping chemicals out of the classroom.](#)

Wednesday, September 02, 2009

Richard Pressinger's pitch to parents is simple: build a school free of harmful chemicals and fragrances and watch how much more a child can learn -- and with fewer sick days, too. Chapel Hill News, North Carolina.

[FDA study: Lead levels in lipstick much higher than previously reported.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

A study by the Food and Drug Administration found lead in lipstick at levels much higher than those detected by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (CSC) in a 2007 study that received international attention. Reuters.

[Silver impairs neurodevelopment: Studies in PC12 cells.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Our results show that silver has the potential to evoke developmental neurotoxicity even more potently than known neurotoxicants like chlorpyrifos, and that the spectrum of effects is likely to be substantially different at lower exposures that do not show signs of outright toxicity. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Prenatal exposure to organohalogenes, including brominated flame retardants, influences motor, cognitive, and behavioral performance at school age.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Our results demonstrated for the first time that transplacental transfer of polybrominated

flame retardants is associated with the development of children at school age. Due to the widespread use of these compounds, especially in the USA where concentrations in the environment are four times higher than in Europe, these results cause serious concern. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[See related articles: [Dust, not food, main source of lesser known flame retardants](#) and [Playing with fire: Chemical industry extinguishes effort to curb toxic fire retardants](#)]

[Independent analysis shows granite countertops pose no health risk.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Two new studies published in the scientifically peer-reviewed Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology show that granite used in countertops poses no radon or radiation threat to consumers. Reuters.

[See a related story: [Study: Granite countertop cutters at risk of deadly radiation exposure](#)]

[Finding smells that repel.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Researchers have identified some of the body's chemical odors -- some of which may be related to stress -- that are present in significantly larger concentrations in people that mosquitos avoid. That might translate into an all-natural mosquito repellent that is more effective and safer than products currently available. Wall Street Journal.

[Cigarettes boost MS risk, but not through nicotine.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Smoking cigarettes increases the risk of multiple sclerosis, but the substance that makes cigarettes addictive, nicotine, doesn't seem to be at fault, Swedish researchers say. Reuters Health.

[A bad mix: exposure may be 'safe' only with one chemical at a time.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

New experiments with combinations of contaminants shows that mixtures can cause harm even when the level of each chemical in the mixture would cause no effect by itself. Environmental Health News.

[Now it IS safe for your child to use a mobile: After years of warnings, official leaflet drops safety guidance.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

The draft of a new advisory leaflet for parents by the Department of Health removes safety advice to impose strict limits on youngsters' use of the handsets. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[See a related story: [Higher cancer rates in under-18 cell phone users](#)]

[You can avoid hazardous chemicals.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

Everyday products can expose you to potentially hazardous chemicals, some of which can accumulate in your body. As revealed in a published study by the CDC, 212 of those chemicals were found in the blood or urine of some 2,500 volunteers. Washington Post.

[Report maps out solutions to child obesity.](#)

Tuesday, September 01, 2009

To make it easier for children to eat healthfully and move more, local governments in towns and cities across the country need to help create a better environment, a new report says. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Obesity surgery's benefits extend to next generation](#)]

[Blood mercury levels rising among U.S. women.](#)

Monday, August 31, 2009

A study involving more than 6,000 American women suggests that blood levels of mercury are accumulating over time, with a big rise noted over the past decade. US News & World Report.

[See related articles: [Feds consider taking lead on mercury emissions](#) and [Hold the sushi](#)]

[China faces 3rd case of kids' mass lead poisoning.](#)

Monday, August 31, 2009

Two hundred children are suffering from lead poisoning in southwest China, the country's third such case of mass sickening in the past month, an official newspaper said Monday. Associated Press.

[Pipes may leak lead.](#)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Santa Clarita Valley water agencies said they don't use PVC pipes, which recent studies have shown to leech lead into the water they carry, but the inexpensive plastic piping has become popular in the construction of new homes, officials said. Santa Clarita Signal, California.

[See a related story: [Chemicals leach from packaging](#)]

[India's generation of children crippled by uranium waste.](#)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

Their brains never grew, speech never came and their lives are likely to be cut short; these are the children it appears that India would rather the world did not see-the victims of a scandal with potential implications for coal-fired power plants. London Observer, United Kingdom.

[Prenatal exposure to organochlorine compounds and neonatal thyroid stimulating hormone levels.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

Prenatal exposure to beta-HCH may affect neonatal thyroid hormone status and its function in neurological development. Journal of Exposure Science and Environmental Epidemiology.

[Nitrous oxide: A necessary evil of agriculture.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

Scientists are surprised to discover that a gas produced mainly in agriculture is doing more to damage the Earth's ozone layer than synthetic chemicals such as chlorofluorocarbons. Morning Edition, NPR.

[U.S. finds water polluted near gas-drilling sites.](#)

Friday, August 28, 2009

U.S. government scientists have for the first time found chemical contaminants in drinking water wells near natural gas drilling operations, fueling concern that a gas-extraction technique is endangering the health of people who live close to drilling rigs. Reuters.

[The Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Program launches new online portal.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) announced today the launch of the Florida Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, a collaborative effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help eliminate the effects of environmental hazards on human health. The Gov Monitor.

[Cancer in wildlife, normally rare, can signal toxic dangers.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Wild animals normally are killed by cancer only in rare cases. But scientists have found that some deadly cancers in animals -- including Quebec's belugas, California sea lions and North Sea flounder -- seem to be triggered or accelerated by environmental contaminants. The tumors highlight the dangers that industrial activities pose -- not just to animals, but to people in the same areas, exposed to the same chemicals. But lack of research and environmental obstacles mean most cancers in wildlife remain undetected. Environmental Health News.

[See a related article: [Scientists fish for answers on the Passaic](#)]

[Local shrimpers cite dangers from imports.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

At Monday's protests in Delcambre, several shrimpers cited potential health risks to consuming imported shrimp. A 2008 report by the nonprofit Food & Water Watch cites pesticides, antibiotics and disinfectants as dangers associated with imported shrimp. The Daily Iberian, Louisiana.

[Choking on freshness.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

If air "fresheners" clear the air, why are we gagging? According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commissions, some air fresheners "release pollutants more or less continuously." Reno News and Review, Nevada.

[Judge denies request for mercury-free vaccines.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

A judge on Wednesday denied an advocacy group's bid to prevent the government from giving pregnant women flu vaccines with a preservative that contains mercury. Associated Press.

[Arsenic in groundwater threatens millions in Uttar Pradesh.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Water is the elixir of life. But in thousands of villages across Uttar Pradesh it is causing death and diseases. Mumbai Daily News and Analysis, India.

[Chemical-safety costs uncertain.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Europe's chemical regulator has questioned a study suggesting that industry will have to spend €9.5 billion (US\$13.6 billion) -- six times more than expected -- on toxicity testing over the next decade, to comply with European Union legislation on chemical safety. Nature.

[See a related article: [EU chemicals law "spells surge in animal testing"](#)]

[Study finds high patient exposure to radiation.](#)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Every year, about four million Americans under age 65 undergo medical imaging procedures that bombard them with more radiation than the safety limit set for workers in the health-care and nuclear industries, a new study concludes. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

[Hookah no less harmful smoke.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Called the first new tobacco trend of the 21st century, hookah use is especially popular among 18- to 24-year-olds. But don't write this off as just a harmless fad. The poisonous smoke one inhales during a typical 45-minute session is equal to four to five packs of cigarettes. Des Moines Register, Iowa.

[Antioxidants encourage cancer in some cases.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Antioxidants, often praised for their reported cancer-fighting power, could in fact be aiding the growth of cancer in some situations, a new study says. National Geographic News.

[Youth's vigor makes a strong impression in environmental hearings.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

15-year-old Otana Jakpor has attended dozens of air-quality meetings and EPA hearings, presenting data from her experiments and advocating for tighter restrictions to improve public health. Los Angeles Times, California.

[Lead-laden paint still widely sold around the world.](#)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Paint with dangerously high lead levels is still being sold for household use worldwide, putting hundreds of millions of young children at risk of permanent brain damage, research out this month in the journal Environmental Research shows. Reuters.

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.

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