



# Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



**Biweekly Bulletin October 7, 2009**

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

<http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.html>

## LDDI Highlights

### **New Practice Prevention Column: Endocrine-disrupting Chemicals**

LDDI has published a new Practice Prevention column detailing the links between learning and developmental disabilities and exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs). Based on the seminal scientific statement from the Endocrine Society published in June 2009 indicating strong associations between EDC exposures and a wide range of chronic diseases and disabilities, the column makes the scientific information about EDCs accessible for non-scientists. Written for parents, educators, child-care providers and others who are responsible for children's well-being, this column describes how children are exposed to EDCs and how to reduce exposures. [View the EDC column.](#)

### **Quarterly LDDI Working Group Call**

The LDDI Working Group had its quarterly call last week, and the notes have been disseminated to members. If you have any information you would like to share, or suggestions for the group, please feel free to contact Laura Abulafia, the national coordinator for LDDI: [laura@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:laura@healthandenvironment.org).

### **Policy Forum in Illinois**

The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) and many other LDDI partners worked hard on putting together a policy forum in Illinois on October 2nd, entitled "Public Health, Toxic Chemicals and Disabilities." The event was a great success with four policymakers attending and one speaking at the meeting. Part of the meeting was a panel on biomonitoring where personal stories from the LDDI biomonitoring project were shared. For more information on this state-level meeting, you can contact Laura Abulafia with AAIDD: [laura@aaidd.org](mailto:laura@aaidd.org) or Maureen Swanson with LDA: [mswanson@ldaamerica.org](mailto:mswanson@ldaamerica.org).

### **Biomonitoring Project Update**

The LDDI biomonitoring project is progressing quickly, with a report title being finalized this week and participants hearing their results this week and next week. This is the first biomonitoring, or "body burden" project that looks at a health-affected community. Media outreach strategy is also moving forward to disseminate this important project to the public. For more information on this ground breaking project please contact Laura Abulafia.

### **Autism Society of America Work**

The Autism Society of America (ASA) has been working with Congress on several key bills, including the Autism Treatment Acceleration Act (Sen Dick Durbin, D-IL), which will help children and adults with autism. A recent report released by the journal *Pediatrics* on the National Children's Health Survey has shown autism prevalence being 1 in 91,

and this has prompted a swift response from ASA. The report demonstrates a dramatic increase from the one in 150 prevalence rates currently reported by the CDC. For more information on ASA's work in policy or in response to this report, contact Donna Ferullo: [dferullo@autism-society.org](mailto:dferullo@autism-society.org).

### **Mental Health Working Group Update**

The National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD) has been working with LDDI's Mental Health Working Group on a review of literature on linking toxic exposures with mental health diagnosis and disability. For more information on this work and other current work out of the Mental Health Working Group, contact Ed Seliger: [eseliger@thenadd.org](mailto:eseliger@thenadd.org).

### **TSCA Reform**

Federal work on revising the Toxic Substances Control Act is continuous and has been a priority for LDDI. For more information on the national activities surrounding this extensive work, please contact Joyce Martin at AAIDD: [jmartin@aaidd.org](mailto:jmartin@aaidd.org) or Maureen Swanson with LDA.

### **AAIDD Teleconference October 13th**

AAIDD's Environmental Health Initiative will present a teleconference titled "Thyroid Hormone, Brain Development and the Environment." Dr. Tom Zoeller, professor of molecular, cellular, and developmental neurology, will describe the work his lab conducts on thyroid hormone, which is essential for normal brain development. See event #1 below for details.

### **NADD Conference October 21st - 23rd**

The NADD's 26th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show will be on Wednesday, October 21 through Friday, October 23, 2009, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Speakers for the environmental health project at the NADD include Elise Miller, Director of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), and more. For more information, see event #4 below or visit [www.thenadd.org/](http://www.thenadd.org/).

### **New members**

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Kelly Ace, PhD, JD, Wilmington, Delaware
- Oluwatosin Adekeye, MSc, Kaduna, Nigeria
- Jack Flanagan, BSN, Hendersonville, North Carolina
- Katherine Minton, PhD, MEd, Portland, Oregon
- Uduak Offiong, MBCh, Abuja, Nigeria

## **Announcements**

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

### **[Proposals to identify Substances of Very High Concern: Annex XV reports for commenting by interested parties.](#)**

Interested parties have until October 15th to provide comments to the Agency on the identification of the substance as SVHC as well as further information related to use, exposure, alternatives and risks. European Chemicals Agency.

*[See a related article: [REACH: The second list of 'very harmful' chemicals is proposed](#)]*

### **[Help protect children from environmental risks: EPA provides tips during Children's Health Month.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009* To heighten awareness about environmental issues impacting children, EPA is providing parents and caregivers simple tips they can use to help protect children in their homes, schools and communities.

### **[EPA opens transparency window into pesticide registration decisions.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is establishing a new transparent process that

will allow the public to review and comment on risk assessments and proposed registration decisions for pesticides. This expanded process will apply to all new pesticide active ingredients and first food uses, first outdoor uses, and first residential uses.

#### **[EPA announces research strategy to study nanomaterials.](#)**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today outlined a new research strategy to better understand how manufactured nanomaterials may harm human health and the environment.

#### **[Drinking water contaminant candidate list and regulatory determinations.](#)**

In September 2009, EPA published the final version of the third Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 3). EPA uses the CCL to prioritize research and data collection efforts to inform the Agency's decision on whether we should regulate a specific contaminant. US Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **[New online information: PCBs in Caulk in Older Buildings.](#)**

In recent years, EPA has learned that caulk containing potentially harmful polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) was used in many buildings, including schools, in the 1950s through the 1970s. This site provides guidance for school administrators and building managers with important information about managing PCBs in caulk and tools to help minimize possible exposure.

[See related articles: [Schools should test for PCBs in brittle caulking says EPA](#) and [EPA finds PCB-containing equipment for sale without proper identification on eBay](#)]

#### **[Television show: Ghost in Your Genes.](#)**

NOVA explores how the epigenome -- the body's complex chemical network that controls gene expression -- plays a role in human biological destiny. A teachers guide is available.

[See a related news article: [Key environmental epigenetics paper challenged](#)]

#### **[Call for comments: Standard Operating Procedures for Residential Pesticide Exposure Assessment.](#)**

A SAP (Scientific Advisory Panel) peer review is scheduled for October 6 - 9, 2009. Written and oral comments are now being submitted. US Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **[Share your stories, successes, and visions for environmental health.](#)**

The Health & Environmental Funders Network has launched a new project to highlight and archive the diverse and exciting work that has happened over the past ten years and capture people's visions and hopes for the next ten years.

#### **[Call for proposals: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Communities Putting Prevention to Work.](#)**

The purpose of this FOA is to create healthier communities through sustainable, proven, population-based approaches such as broad-based policy, systems, organizational and environmental changes in communities and schools. Funding number CDC-RFA-DP09-912ARRA09. Applications are due by Dec 1, 2009.

#### **[Call for proposals: Identification and Characterization of Sensitive Periods for Neurodevelopment in Studies of Mental Illness.](#)**

The National Institute of Mental Health solicits research grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to investigate the role of sensitive periods (i.e., periods during which the developing brain is maximally sensitive to environmental influences that confer risk or resilience) in the development of cognitive or affective function and behaviors relevant to mental health disorders. The expiration date is October 21, 2009.

#### **[Call for proposals: Mechanisms Underlying the Links between Psychosocial Stress, Aging, the Brain and the Body.](#)**

This FOA from the National Institutes of Health is looking for research focused on (1) aging and how neural mechanisms respond to psychosocial stress and affect other body systems, (2) characterizing the behavioral, psychological and social mechanisms and pathways involved in transducing psychosocial stressors into health outcomes, (3) how

stressors modulate physiological process underlying life-span, immune mechanisms, and metabolism, and (4) how psychosocial stress contributes to the development or progression of geriatric syndromes, chronic medical conditions, and disabilities in later life. The closing date is September 8, 2012.

**[Call for proposals: Effects of Gene-Social Environment Interplay on Health and Behavior in Later Life.](#)**

This FOA from the National Institute on Aging is intended to lay the foundation for future studies of the role of gene-environment interplay in accounting for links between social experiences and physical health, functionality, and psychological well-being in midlife and older age. Of particular interest are applications that can embed this foundation within a lifespan perspective.

**[Call for proposals: Healthy Aging through Behavioral Economic Analyses of Situations.](#)**

The National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institutes of Health, solicits Research Project Grant (R01) applications that propose to translate basic findings from behavioral economics into behavior change interventions targeting health behaviors associated with chronic health conditions of mid life and older age. Applications should propose small pilot clinical trials or demonstration projects. The application deadline is November 2, 2009.

**[Job opening: Minneapolis, Minnesota.](#)**

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy has an opening for a senior program associate to direct their Food and Health Program's outreach, organizing and project development. Deadline for applications is October 20, 2009.

**[Job opening: Falls Church, Virginia.](#)**

The Center For Health, Environment and Justice has an opening for a coordinator for its Childproofing Our Communities Campaign which works to protect children from exposure to environmental health hazards where they live, learn, play and pray.

**[Job opening: Anchorage, Alaska.](#)**

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) seeks a full-time development/communications coordinator to facilitate the implementation of ACAT's Development Plan. The coordinator is responsible for fundraising and communication with ACAT supporters and constituents to increase public awareness and support of ACAT's work.

## Upcoming Events

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

**1) Thyroid Hormone, Brain Development and the Environment**

Tuesday October 13, 2009

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time / 11:00 a.m. - noon Pacific time

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

R. Thomas Zoeller, PhD, is professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He will describe the work his lab conducts on thyroid hormone, which is essential for normal brain development. The main focus of research in the laboratory is to understand the molecular mechanism(s) by which thyroid hormone affects brain development and brain function. His lab pursues this goal within the context of two large projects. First, they are cloning genes expressed in the fetal brain that are regulated by maternal thyroid hormone. These genes have led them to examine the effect of thyroid hormone on cortical cell proliferation, differentiation and fate specification. Second, they are examining the mechanisms by which thyroid hormone action can be disrupted by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). These chemicals are structurally similar to thyroid

hormone and are known to affect neural development. They can alter circulating levels of thyroid hormone.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Laura Abulafia, [Laura@aaidd.org](mailto:Laura@aaidd.org)

## **2) Late Lessons From Early Warnings: the Precautionary Principle 1896-2000, a Conversation with David Gee**

Thursday October 15, 2009

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

Sponsor: Collaborative on Health and the Environment

This call is an international conversation with David Gee, senior advisor at the European Environment Agency (EEA). Michael Lerner, president of Commonweal, will discuss with Gee a wide variety of topics of importance to environmental and human health, including chemical science and policy, recent work in the field of EMF science and the far-reaching framework of ecological health and the implications such a framework has for policy changes.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: CHE, [360-331-7904](tel:360-331-7904) or [info@healthandenvironment.org](mailto:info@healthandenvironment.org)

## **3) 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](tel:301-924-0804)

## **4) The NADD 26th Annual Conference and Exhibit Show**

Wednesday through Friday, October 21 - 23, 2009

New Orleans, Louisiana

at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street

Sponsor: National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD)

The theme for this conference is "Advancing Mental Wellness Through Excellence in Mental Health Care (ID/MH)," with a keynote by Dr. Larry Silver. Every day we are flooded with important new health information and are challenged to keep pace with the many new developments in prevention and intervention. This year's conference is an opportunity to learn and apply support strategies, program models, and treatment approaches. Providing the most comprehensive education, the conference will highlight



important areas of physical and mental health, the well-being for people with intellectual disabilities, and the collaboration and integration of physical and mental health care in promoting collaborative efforts among professionals and family members. A preconference symposium titled "Neurotoxic Agents" will include invited panel presenters Theodore Slotkin, PhD, and Cheryl Beseler, PhD, and will be moderated by Elise Miller, MEd, preconference chair.

Price: see the [conference brochure](#) (page 14)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Lisa Christie, [800-331-5362](tel:800-331-5362) or [lchristie@thenadd.org](mailto:christie@thenadd.org)

### **5) 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](tel:217-785-4475) or [vicky.ritz@illinois.gov](mailto:vicky.ritz@illinois.gov)

### **6) 2009 National Environmental Public Health Conference**

Monday through Wednesday, October 26 - 28, 2009

Atlanta, Georgia

at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street NE

Sponsor: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Environmental Health, US Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the National Environmental Health Association, US Department of Health and Human Services

With a theme of "Healthy People in a Healthy Environment", the conference seeks to promote the nation's environmental-health capacity by enhancing the expertise of environmental-health professionals - including public health and health-care professionals, academic researchers, representatives from communities and organizations, as well as advocacy and business groups with a primary interest in environmental public health. The conference aims to develop and encourage innovative strategies for addressing existing and emerging issues in addition to being a forum for CDC/ATSDR and its many partners to share research, scientific and program information focusing on environmental public-health priorities.

Price: see the [registration page](#)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [678-261-7002](tel:678-261-7002) or [d\\_cook@team-psa.com](mailto:d_cook@team-psa.com)

### **7) ISES 2009 Annual Conference**

Sunday through Thursday, November 1 - 5, 2009  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
at the Marriott Minneapolis City Center

Sponsor: International Society of Exposure Science

The ISES 2009 Annual Conference will bring together scientists from a wide range of disciplines to share current research activities and to identify critical needs for exposure science in the 21st century. The goal of ISES is to foster and advance the science of exposure analysis related to environmental contaminants, both for human populations and ecosystems.

Price: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: [ises09@gmail.com](mailto:ises09@gmail.com)

### **8) 2009 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish**

Monday through Thursday, November 2 - 5, 2009  
Portland, Oregon  
at the Governor Hotel, 614 SW 11th Avenue

Sponsor: US EPA and co-hosted by the Oregon Department of Human Services

This event brings together public health and environmental professionals from governmental agencies, industry, environmental and health advocacy groups and other interested parties to discuss the many issues related to the risks and benefits of fish consumption.

Price: see the Registration tab on the website

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the Contacts tab on the website

### **9) Biological Monitoring of Exposures to Organophosphorus Pesticides: Challenges and Opportunities**

Thursday November 5, 2009  
12:30 - 1:20 p.m.

Seattle, Washington

at the University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Room T-435

Sponsor: University of Washington Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

Christopher D. Simpson, PhD, MSc, associate professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at the University of Washington will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Fischer [fischs@u.washington.edu](mailto:fischs@u.washington.edu)

## **News and Journal Articles**

### **[Cadmium, environmental exposure and health outcomes.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Adverse effects of cadmium on kidney and bone have been observed in environmentally exposed populations at the frequencies higher than those predicted from models of exposure. There is increasing evidence implicating cadmium in the risk of diseases that involve other tissues and organ systems at cadmium concentrations not producing effects

on bone or renal function. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Helping crops shed pesticides.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Scientists may have found a way to help crops shed pesticides long before they end up on dinner tables around the globe. The idea involves dousing agricultural crops with a naturally occurring plant hormone that seems to boost the ability of the plants to remove pesticide residue in their cells. Science.

### **[Use your inhalers if asthmatic and pregnant: Researchers.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Pregnant women who forgo their asthma inhalers to protect their unborn children may be doing their fetuses more harm. Montreal Gazette, Quebec.

*[See a related article: [Inhaler may up risk of asthma in some children](#)*

### **[BPA in the womb shows link to kids' behavior.](#)**

*Tuesday, October 06, 2009*

Researchers have just linked prenatal exposure to bisphenol-A -- a near-ubiquitous industrial chemical ---with subtle, gender-specific alterations in behavior among two-year-olds. Science News.

*[See another story about effects of BPA: [Maternal bisphenol A exposure promotes the development of experimental asthma in mouse pups](#)]*

### **[Anti-wi-fi paint offers security.](#)**

*Monday, October 05, 2009*

The paint contains an aluminium-iron oxide which resonates at the same frequency as wi-fi -- or other radio waves -- meaning the airborne data is absorbed and blocked. BBC.

### **[Report finds 13 million premature births worldwide each year.](#)**

*Monday, October 05, 2009*

Nearly 13 million babies, or about 10% of total worldwide births, are born prematurely each year, presenting a major and growing challenge for health systems and governments, according to a report by the March of Dimes. Wall Street Journal.

### **[Two government studies find autism disorders in 1 in 100 US children.](#)**

*Monday, October 05, 2009*

The new estimate would mean about 673,000 American children have autism. Previous estimates put the number at about 560,000. Associated Press.

*[See a related article from the UK: [Study finds no evidence of autism surge in children](#)]*

### **[Events seek to prevent lead poisoning.](#)**

*Sunday, October 04, 2009*

October is Lead Awareness Month in North Carolina, and state health and housing officials are holding events aimed at preventing lead poisoning. Asheville Citizen-Times, North Carolina.

*[See related journal articles: [The social costs of childhood lead exposure in the post-lead regulation era](#), [Altered myelination and axonal integrity in adults with childhood lead exposure: A diffusion tensor imaging study](#) and [Eating venison, other game raises lead exposure](#) and related news articles: [Target must pay \\$600,000 fine for selling toys with lead paint](#) and [For kids' safety, federal agency cracks down on secondhand sellers](#)]*

### **[With natural gas drilling boom, Pennsylvania faces an onslaught of wastewater.](#)**

*Sunday, October 04, 2009*

The Monongahela, a drinking water source for 350,000 people, had apparently been contaminated by chemically tainted wastewater from the state's growing natural gas industry. ProPublica.

### **[EPA, D.C. sign agreement to focus efforts on city's top environmental matters.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the District Department of the Environment agreed to focus their resources and environmental protection efforts in five key areas for improving quality of life in the District.



**[Diesel emissions down drastically at ports of L.A., Long Beach.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

A program to cut diesel emissions at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by phasing out older cargo trucks is ahead of schedule, and has delivered cleaner air to neighborhoods once enveloped by fumes, the mayors said Thursday. Los Angeles Times, California.

**[Smoking in pregnancy risks psychotic children: study.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

Mothers who smoke during pregnancy put their children at greater risk of developing psychotic symptoms as teenagers, British scientists said on Thursday. Reuters.

[See a related article: [Monitoring the dangers of secondhand smoke](#)]

**[EPA finds toxic agent in air at 15 schools.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

Outside 15 schools in eight states, government regulators have found elevated levels of a substance [acrolein] that -- in a more potent form -- was also used as a chemical weapon during World War I. USA Today.

**[Environmental factors in birth defects: What we need to know.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

The causes of only about 30% of birth defects are somewhat well understood, and knowledge even of those is sometimes spotty. The 70% still unknown leaves open the possibility that environmental factors could play a significant role. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[EPA: Dow Chemical Co. study little help in planning dioxin cleanup.](#)**

*Friday, October 02, 2009*

A scientific analysis of dioxin exposure near a Dow Chemical Co. plant in Midland will be of little use in planning a long-delayed cleanup, government regulators said Thursday. The study measured dioxin levels in blood. None of the study subjects were children, likely to be most affected. Associated Press.

**[Children's diseases linked to chemicals on rise, professor says.](#)**

*Thursday, October 01, 2009*

Chronic childhood diseases linked to exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment have been surging upward, costing the U.S. almost \$55 billion a year. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin.

**[Snake Valley water deal could kill Utahns, docs warn.](#)**

*Thursday, October 01, 2009*

Utah's top medical organization warns that a proposed agreement to divide Snake Valley water with Nevada could expose the public to carcinogens, radiation and valley fever and jeopardize Utahns' very lives. Salt Lake Tribune, Utah.

**[Obama plan would tighten rules on toxic chemicals.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 30, 2009*

The Obama administration unveiled the outlines of a proposal to overhaul the regulation of thousands of chemicals used in consumer products and the workplace, calling for more testing and greater authority to restrict toxic products. Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

**[Sources of mercury exposure for U.S. seafood consumers: Implications for policy.](#)**

*Wednesday, September 30, 2009*

Despite uncertainties in the exposure pathway, results indicate that a combination of North American and international emissions controls with adaptation strategies are necessary to manage methylmercury risks across various demographic groups in the U.S. Environmental Health Perspectives.

**[New tests find unsafe levels of toxic PCBs in 2 local rivers.](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

The latest results, officials say, offer a clearer picture of how PCBs are contaminating

rivers -- mostly by washing off lands and waste sites, often during rain storms, and creating toxic conditions that violate state water standards. Hampton Roads Virginian-Pilot, Virginia.

[See a related article: [Christina's future murky yet improving](#)]

#### **[Mercury limits suspended for H1N1 vaccine to improve access.](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

Officials said Secretary of Health Mary Selecky is temporarily suspending Washington's limit on the amount of mercury (thimerosal) allowed in H1N1 vaccine given to pregnant women and children under three. Lewiston KLEW TV, Idaho.

[See a related article: [Don't blame shots for all ills, swine flu officials say](#)]

#### **[Is your playground toxic?](#)**

*Monday, September 28, 2009*

Playgrounds are supposed to be safe places for kids to play. But a leaked memo from the Environmental Protection Agency indicates there might be a problem with crumb rubber. Environment Report, Michigan.

#### **[Taking care of home key to battling mold.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

Some health effects brought on by molds include allergies, asthma, coughing and runny noses, he said. These are all symptoms of mold allergies. Carroll County Times, Westminster, Maryland.

#### **[Lake Ontario's fish less toxic, but alerts unheeded.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

More than three decades after New Yorkers were first warned to limit their consumption of Lake Ontario fish, levels of toxic chemicals in the fish have plummeted, yet continue to threaten the health of those who ignore consumption advisories. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, New York.

#### **[Dust storms spread deadly diseases worldwide.](#)**

*Sunday, September 27, 2009*

Huge dust storms, like the ones that blanketed Sydney twice last week, hit Queensland yesterday and turned the air red across much of eastern Australia, are spreading lethal epidemics around the world. London Observer, United Kingdom.

#### **[Opencast mines will lead to public health disaster, warns poison expert.](#)**

*Saturday, September 26, 2009*

Scotland is sleepwalking into a public health disaster by ignoring the dangers of emissions from opencast mines, a leading toxicologist has warned. Glasgow Sunday Herald, United Kingdom.

#### **[Panel assessing state's analysis of methyl iodide risk.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

A panel of eight independent toxicologists began its work Thursday in assessing whether state regulators have accurately analyzed the potential risk of allowing a controversial new soil fumigant to be used in California. Ventura County Star, California.

#### **[Cleaning up the 'organic' soap biz.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

The organic food industry is regulated by the federal government, but when it comes to shampoo, soaps and makeup, manufacturers often falsely promote products as all natural or pesticide- and chemical-free, according to Alexis Baden-Mayer of the Organic Consumers Association. Boston Herald, Massachusetts.

#### **[Jury rejects toxic trailer claim.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

A federal jury on Thursday rejected a New Orleans family's claims that the government-issued trailer they lived in after Hurricane Katrina exposed them to dangerous fumes, with one juror saying the plaintiffs' attorneys never had the "smoking gun" that proved their case. Associated Press.

### **[Fruit and veg have 'unacceptable' levels of pesticides.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Many fruit and vegetables sold in supermarkets and greengrocers contain pesticide residues that are above the maximum legal level, an in-depth report has said. London Daily Telegraph, United Kingdom.

### **[Air pollution may raise preterm birth risk.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Exposure to air pollution later in pregnancy may raise a woman's risk of delivering her baby too soon, a new study suggests. Previous studies have linked air pollution exposure in both the first and third trimester of pregnancy to an increased risk of preterm delivery Reuters.

### **[Study finds school drinking water tainted.](#)**

*Friday, September 25, 2009*

Over the last decade, the drinking water at thousands of schools across the country has been found to contain unsafe levels of lead, pesticides and dozens of other toxic chemicals. But the problem has gone largely unmonitored by the federal government. Associated Press.

### **[Potential for occupational exposure to engineered carbon-based nanomaterials in environmental laboratory studies](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

Engineered nanomaterials can become airborne when mixed in solution by sonication, especially when nanomaterials are functionalized or in water containing natural organic matter. Environmental Health Perspectives.

### **[Prenatal exposure to tetrachloroethylene-contaminated drinking water and the risk of congenital anomalies: a retrospective cohort study.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

The results of this study suggest that the risk of certain congenital anomalies is increased among the offspring of women who were exposed to PCE-contaminated drinking water around the time of conception. Environmental Health.

[See a related news article: [Solvent used in Cape pipes linked to birth defects](#)]

### **[Can planes be poisonous?](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

An international collaboration between scientists suggests a direct link between the so called aero-toxic syndrome and chemicals present cockpit and cabin air supplies. BBC.

### **[Fish and paint chips Part I: The science of trash.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

Scientists have known for years that the world's oceans are full of garbage. Only now are they starting to suspect that it's making its way onto our dinner plates. DC Bureau.

### **[Wisconsin passes mercury, invasive species bills.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

The Wisconsin Assembly and Senate approved legislation Tuesday to ban the sale of certain products containing mercury. Business North, Minnesota.

### **[1 in 3 homes in metro areas could pose health risks.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

One in three homes in U.S. metropolitan areas have at least one problem such as water leaks, peeling paint, holes or rodents that could harm residents' health or safety, according to a first-of-its-kind study to be released Thursday. USA Today.

### **[Power plant fitted with filters to reduce emissions.](#)**

*Thursday, September 24, 2009*

A \$700 million retrofit of the only coal-burning power plant in northern New Jersey promises to dramatically cut down on toxic smokestack emissions. But it will do nothing to curb the plant's release of carbon, the biggest contributor to global warming. Newark Star-Ledger, New Jersey.

### **Are E-cigarettes safe? Details are hazy.**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Makers of a new product called an E-cigarette claim it's a safer way to get a nicotine fix than regular cigarettes -- without emitting second-hand smoke. The FDA isn't so sure. MarketPlace.

### **Flavors banned from cigarettes to deter youths.**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Federal health officials banned the sale of flavored cigarettes on Tuesday in the first major crackdown since the Food and Drug Administration was given the authority to regulate tobacco. New York Times.

*[See a related article about a similar proposed ban in Canada: [Senate could gut legislation on flavoured tobacco](#)]*

### **Seeking chemical culprits for those deformities.**

*Wednesday, September 23, 2009*

Many scientists and public health advocates point to pesticides and other [endocrine-disrupting] environmental pollutants while others, including industry, some government agencies and more scientists, say more study is needed. Miller-McCune.

*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 general children's environmental health: [http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working\\_groups/childrens\\_health/bulletins](http://www.healthandenvironment.org/working_groups/childrens_health/bulletins)
- 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 LDDI 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 Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative Working Group at the bottom of the application.

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

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