



Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative

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



Biweekly Bulletin August 12, 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

LDDI Biomonitoring Project

Leaders in LDDI, including representatives from the Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA), the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD), the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) and the Autism Society of America, recently convened a conference call to discuss the LDDI biomonitoring report release. The data from this important project will be available early this fall. A report analyzing the data will be released later in the fall in concert with media outreach and policy related activities.

State Outreach

AAIDD, LDA, and ASA are partnering with local organizations in Illinois to co-host an educational forum on toxic chemicals and public health. This event, to be held in Chicago on October 2nd, will include health professionals, policymakers and concerned citizens. For more information, to register, or to view the save-the-date, please visit www.ehinitiative.org or contact Laura Abulafia, Director of Education and Outreach for AAIDD's Environmental Health Initiative: laura@aaidd.org.

Partner Activities

1) ASA, now known as The Autism Society, hosted 1500 parents, educators, clinicians and persons with autism at its 40th annual conference in Chicago July 22- 25. More than 200 sessions enlightened attendees to autism biology, behavior, education, community, life skills, policy needs and the latest research. Highlights included a keynote panel on the future of autism with NIH, AAP and insurance heads; the first annual science symposium, "Science that Makes a Difference"; expert lectures on autism and the environment, integrative neurology, the whole body problem of autism, treatment guided research, and a new web infrastructure supporting treatment guided research and environmental exposure reporting in the Continuing Medical Education Track; and a compelling keynote panel of persons on the autism spectrum.

2) AAIDD is hosting its Region X meeting in Connecticut October 2nd, and the topic will be environmental health and intellectual and developmental disabilities. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mark Mitchell, who leads the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice and is a LDDI member. For more information, or to register, please contact Michael Bloom at bloomm18@yahoo.com.

3) A preconference symposium on "Mental Health and Environmental Exposures: The Emerging Evidence" is planned for the 26th Annual NADD Conference and Exhibit Show, which is taking place in New Orleans, October 21 - 23, 2009. Elise Miller, MEd, is the preconference chair, and she is being joined by Theodore Slotkin, PhD, and Cheryl Beseler, PhD. For more information, visit [the conference website](#).

Mental Health

The Mental Health and Environment Working Group is currently developing three products: a) an article reviewing the state of research concerning the association between pesticide exposures and psychiatric symptoms; b) a clinician guide for mental health practitioners and primary care physicians concerning pesticide exposure and affective disorders; and c) a brochure to inform patients about possible symptoms of pesticide exposure and ways to reduce exposure. The next call of the Mental Health and the Environment Working Group is scheduled for Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific / 1:00 p.m. Eastern. If you are interested in participating in the call, please contact Ed Seliger: eselig@thenadd.org.

New members

The Learning and Developmental Disabilities Initiative welcomes these new members:

- Amir Jaferi, ME, Karachi, Pakistan
- Kathleen Morris, MSA, RN, Columbia, Ohio
- Robin Schafer, PhD, Washington, DC
- Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, Washington, DC

Upcoming Events

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

1) A Media Training Workshop with Suzanne Turner

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Thursday August 13 or noon - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 (choose one session)

Washington, DC

at the National Research Center for Women & Families Conference Room, 1701 K Street NW, Suite 700 (building entrance is on 17th Street near K Street)

Sponsor: National Research Center for Women & Families

News is shaped by PR experts, most of them highly paid to get the message out. How can researchers, experts who care about the public good, and nonprofit organizations that don't have big bucks make sure that their voices are also heard? Turner Strategies has designed and developed communications campaigns that have helped pass more than 40 pieces of legislation. Their team has worked for nonprofit organizations as well as Fortune 500 companies, devising effective branding and marketing campaigns. Thanks to their guidance, participants in this workshop will learn strategies and useful information that they can use to make their voices heard on important issues. Media training usually costs hundreds of dollars per hour; this is a great opportunity to get three hours of great training at an affordable price. Lunch will be served.

Price: \$95 per participant from 501(c)(3) organizations, \$200 per participant for all others. If you sign up after August 5, add \$20.

Contact: Emily Hartman, 202-223-4000 or info@center4research.org

2) Train the Trainer: Lead Safe Renovation Under the New EPA RRP Rule

Monday and Tuesday, August 17 - 18, 2009

Chicago, Illinois

Sponsor: NeighborWorks America

Under new US EPA regulations, all firms conducting rehab or significant repairs in pre-1978 buildings will have to be certified to work safely around lead-based paint. By April 2010, at least 200,000 individuals will need to be trained as Lead-Safe Renovators. Although this Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule will provide compliance challenges, it also provides an opportunity for community-based housing organizations to earn revenue while assisting in building community capacity by becoming RRP Trainers.

This course will familiarize construction/rehab specialists, training managers, trainers, asset managers and agency leaders on how to deliver EPA-approved RRP training to contractors and property managers. Participants will become familiar with the rule, led through the delivery of the eight-hour Renovator course, and be provided with an overview of what is required to become an accredited trainer. Hints and tips on successfully marketing the class and earning revenue will also be presented.

Price: \$430

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 202- 220-2300

3) Pass a Safe School Siting Policy

Wednesday August 19, 2009
noon Eastern time

Sponsor: Center for Health, Environment & Justice

This is the third of a three-part conference call series on community impacts of the lack of laws preventing the building of schools on or near sources of pollution. Objectives include 1) identifying different strategies in passing a school-siting policy, 2) understanding the steps toward creating a campaign strategy and media plan, and 3) understanding general best practices in passing policy.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: see the [contact page](#)

4) Nurses Championing the Health of Minority Communities through a Greener Environment

Saturday August 22, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

at Thomas Jefferson University, Bluemle Life Sciences Building, Room 101, 10th & Locust Streets

Sponsor: Theta Chapter, Chi Eta Phi Sorority Inc.; Women's Health & Environmental Network; Thomas Jefferson University Hospital's Office to Advance Population Health; supported by a grant from Health Care Without Harm

Vital information about how exposures to harmful ingredients can impact health is not reaching minority communities. As the public's most trusted professionals, nurses have a critical role to play in sharing current findings with vulnerable populations. This training will be on safer personal care products, sustainable food and making health care safer and healthier for people and the environment. This program is designed for nurses working in minority communities in the Philadelphia region. Nursing contact hours will be awarded.

Price: unknown

Contact: 1-800-JEFF-NOW

5) Facilitation Skills for Scientists and Resource Managers

Tuesday through Thursday, September 1 - 3, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Sacramento, California

at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street

Sponsor: EOS Alliance

This course is intended to be a practical approach to improving group meetings. It is

oriented specifically to the needs of scientists and resource managers. After core facilitation skills are practiced, the class will be tailored to the students' development needs. Participants will be asked to complete a pre-workshop skills profile. Students are presented with a wide array of tools and opportunities to practice new facilitation skills. The class includes continuing education units.

Price: \$695, or \$595 for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, 206-762-1976

6) Prenatal Tobacco Smoke and Postnatal Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Child Neurodevelopment

Tuesday September 8, 2009
2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Michael Weitzman, MD, professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine, will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 800-424-3688

7) 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](#)

8) 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: unknown

[Visit the website](#)

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

Announcements & Articles

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

[Job opening: Women's Voices for the Earth, Missoula, Montana.](#)

WVE seeks a development specialist with an excellent track record and significant experience securing major gifts and foundation grants. Applications will be accepted until August 28, 2009, or until the position is filled.

[Job opening: Good Guide, San Francisco.](#)

Good Guide is seeking a full-time chief scientific officer to help refine and expand their methodologies for evaluating the environmental, social and health performance of products. A PhD or MD degree is required, with 15+ years experience in research, an internationally recognized record in publishing, policy engagement, or industry leadership.

[EPA seeks public input on clean water enforcement action plan through online forum.](#)

EPA has launched an online discussion forum to receive public input on the future direction of EPA's national water enforcement program. The public will be able to provide feedback through the EPA website, between now and August 28, giving them a forum to address any concerns about EPA's efforts to protect the water in their communities. US Environmental Protection Agency

[EPA seeks public comment on proposed changes to list of impaired waters for Missouri](#)

The Agency is requesting public comment on its proposed decision to add or restore a total of 17 water bodies and corresponding pollutants to Missouri's 2008 impaired waters list. US Environmental Protection Agency.

[EPA seeks public comment on Univar cleanup plan.](#)

US Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has proposed a ground water contamination cleanup plan for the Univar Inc. facility at 59865 Market St., South Bend, Indiana. The public is invited to provide written comments on the plan until October 9th.

[Insights with host Hugh Downs launches new series on environmental health.](#)

The senior producer for the series said, "Environmental health is getting traction today and our series will be aiding people to obtain answers to important questions about the environment and how it affects our health."

[Environmental Health 101: Should I test my home for mold?](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Mold will grow on many building materials that are damp for extended periods. The key to preventing mold growth is controlling moisture. Examiner.com.

[China to monitor endemic arsenic, fluoride poisoning.](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

China will start to monitor the endemic poisoning of coal-burning arsenic and fluoride as environmentally-related illnesses continue to plague coal-rich central and western regions, the Ministry of Health said Monday Xinhua News Agency, China.

[See a related article: [China: Where poisoning people is almost free](#)]

[Bird flu virus a possible trigger for Parkinson's.](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

The idea that viruses can trigger neurodegenerative disease has remained controversial. Now researchers report new evidence for such a link: Mice infected with the H5N1 avian influenza virus lose the same dopamine-releasing neurons that are destroyed by Parkinson's disease. Science.

[Pollutants in breast milk may fluctuate during nursing.](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Levels of contaminants in breast milk are more complicated than once thought; instead of a constant decline during nursing, levels may fluctuate from beginning to end, finds a new study that contradicts the long-held belief that the pollutants steadily wane. Environmental Health News.

['Substantial reduction' in tobacco sales to minors.](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Retail sales of tobacco products to people under 18 are at the lowest level they have been in years, says a report being released today by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. USA Today.

[Germ-killing chemical from soaps, toothpaste building up in dolphins.](#)

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

A new study found that one-third of the bottlenose dolphins tested off South Carolina and almost one-quarter of those tested off Florida carried traces of the antibacterial chemical triclosan in their blood. Now some scientists are calling for its removal from consumer products because it is building up in the ocean's food web. Environmental Health News.

[Chemical companies, U.S. authorities knew dangers of Agent Orange.](#)

Monday, August 10, 2009

U.S. chemical companies that made Agent Orange and the government and military authorities who ordered its spraying on Vietnam knew the human health toll it could take, according to official and unofficial documents detailing the history of the deadly defoliant. Thanhien News, Vietnam.

[The melamine incident: Implications for international food and feed safety.](#)

Sunday, August 09, 2009

There is a need to strengthen collaboration between food safety authorities worldwide to efficiently exchange information, and to enable tracking and recalling of affected products in order to ensure food safety and protect public health. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Lead: 7 tips for limiting exposure.](#)

Saturday, August 08, 2009

Lead exposure and poisoning is avoidable. Prevention is still the best option for protecting your health. Examiner.com.

[Pesticide use on hospital lawns reviewed.](#)

Friday, August 07, 2009

The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority is reviewing its use of chemicals on grass and grounds of hospitals after an environmental activist asked why a neighbourhood health centre was spraying toxic pesticides. CBC News.

[Mercury storage debated at Dept. of Energy meeting in Andrews.](#)

Friday, August 07, 2009

The possibility of storing mercury is stirring up debate in Andrews tonight where a vocal opposition is warning of major dangers as the Department of Energy presents their plan.

Odessa KOSA TV, Texas.

[New findings spur EPA to rethink perchlorate regulation.](#)

Friday, August 07, 2009

The debate over perchlorate now moves to the U.S. EPA, which requested public comments this week on possible regulation of perchlorate in drinking water. The agency said it is particularly concerned about the possible impact of perchlorate on the health of very young children. Greenwire.

[Reduce fetal exposure to BPA and phthalates, experts say.](#)

Friday, August 07, 2009

With Health Canada recently banning plastic baby bottles made from bisphenol A and proposing to ban certain toys, the question arises: what about pregnant women and their fetuses, which are even more susceptible? Toronto Globe and Mail, Ontario.

[See related articles: [Health Canada studying effect of chemicals on infant genitals](#) and [Phthalates may increase risk of preterm births](#)]

[Tackling toxicology and environmental health.](#)

Thursday, August 06, 2009

As the new head of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, home to the National Toxicology Program, Linda Birnbaum says her priorities are low-dose effects, differential susceptibility, and science communication with the public. Science News.

[Rural well water linked to Parkinson's; California study implicates farm pesticides.](#)

Wednesday, August 05, 2009

Rural residents who drink water from private wells are much more likely to have Parkinson's disease, a finding that bolsters theories that farm pesticides may be partially to blame, according to a new California study. Environmental Health News.

[Insect repellent ingredient used by thousands of holidaymakers can cause children to fit.](#)

Wednesday, August 05, 2009

Insect repellents [containing DEET] used by millions of holidaymakers each year are potentially toxic and should not be used by children and pregnant women, scientists have warned. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[Environmental health 101: What is nature-deficit disorder?](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Nature-deficit disorder names the link between behavioral problems (including obesity, loneliness, depression, attention problems and greater social isolation) and minimal time spent outside. Examiner.com.

[Diverse health and environmental coalition calls for sweeping changes in U.S. chemical safety law.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

A broad coalition of health and environmental organizations unveiled today a set of key requirements for reforming the nation's antiquated chemical safety law, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). World-Wire.

[PCB dump site raises worries: Proximity to aquifer at issue among scientists in Texas.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Over the next several years, an estimated 2.65 million cubic yards of PCB-laden sediment will be dredged from the Hudson River and taken by railcar to rural Andrews County, Texas. Saratoga Saratogian, New York.

[See another article about the problems of disposing of toxic materials cleaned from a contaminated site: [Ala. county: Coal ash site environmental racism](#)]

[Middle-aged smokers at higher risk of dementia.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Middle-aged people who smoke, are diabetic or have high blood pressure are far more

likely to suffer from dementia, research reveals today. London Guardian, United Kingdom.

[Anxiety, inattention, poor decisions increase in kids with higher lead levels.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Higher blood lead levels in children were associated with specific learning and behavior changes, including more anxiety and deficits in planning, abstract thinking and determining appropriate behavior, finds this large study from India. Environmental Health News.

[See other articles about children and lead: [Lead-based consumer paint remains a global public health threat](#), [More D.C. kids had elevated lead than stated](#), [Parents told to dust more in lead hotspots](#) and [California criticizes police firing range in Redondo Beach](#)]

[Millions of children in U.S. found to be lacking Vitamin D.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

Millions of U.S. children have disturbingly low Vitamin D levels, possibly increasing their risk for bone problems, heart disease, diabetes and other ailments -- according the first national assessment of the crucial nutrient in young Americans. Washington Post.

[See a related article: [Low vitamin D levels linked to metabolic syndrome](#)]

[Perfluoropolymer degrades in decades, study estimates.](#)

Tuesday, August 04, 2009

The breakdown of the main fluorinated ingredient in stain repellants and paper coatings is a significant source of fluorinated compounds such as PFOA in the environment. PFOA remains in people's bodies for years and causes developmental and other adverse effects in animals. Environmental Science & Technology.

[Gases from chemicals are a potential health disaster.](#)

Monday, August 03, 2009

Do you love the "new" smell? That interior of a new car, a freshly painted room or a newly installed carpet? Experts are discovering that the "new-smell" chemicals you are breathing can be harmful to your health. Canwest News Service.

[Hair care industry moving toward greener alternatives.](#)

Monday, August 03, 2009

Several area stylists said natural and organic products work better and make hair healthier than most synthetic lines. Harrisburg Patriot-News, Pennsylvania.

[Tox21: New dimensions of toxicity testing.](#)

Monday, August 03, 2009

New tests using automated systems that assess how chemicals interact with cellular processes may generate more accurate assessments of risks to people than current approaches, largely dependent upon animals. But will it work, and will it be enough for safety assessments? Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Chemicals can turn genes on and off; new tests needed, scientists say.](#)

Monday, August 03, 2009

Each of us starts life with a particular set of genes, 20,000 to 25,000 of them. Now scientists are amassing a growing body of evidence that pollutants and chemicals might be altering those genes -- not by mutating them, but by sending subtle signals that silence them or switch them on at the wrong times. Last week a National Academies workshop examined the evidence and implications. Environmental Health News.

[African dream turns sour for orphan army.](#)

Sunday, August 02, 2009

Gap's decision to develop garment production in Lesotho heralded an era of opportunity, but a Sunday Times investigation has exposed an unforeseen consequence of that commitment -- the dumping of tons of waste, much of it dangerous, at unsecured municipal sites. London Times, England.

[See a related article: [Sifting through the mounting problem of e-waste](#)]

[Not enough Bay Area kids vaccinated, docs say.](#)

Saturday, August 01, 2009

Too many children are undervaccinated in the Bay Area, leaving them vulnerable to illnesses that were once thought nearly eradicated and making it easier for some diseases to get a foothold in communities and spread, public health experts say. San Francisco Chronicle, California.

[A clash of old and new scientific concepts in toxicity, with important implications for public health.](#)

Friday, July 31, 2009

We challenge the validity of assuming that high dose testing can be used to predict low dose effects for contaminants that behave like hormones. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[Death by mint oil: Natural pesticides.](#)

Friday, July 31, 2009

Increasingly, well-known insecticide manufacturers, retailers and even professional pest-control services are rolling out solutions derived from natural materials like animals, plants, bacteria and minerals, potentially safer than their synthetic counterparts. Wall Street Journal.

[HP delays toxic phase-out.](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

HP has delayed a planned phase-out of toxic chemicals [polyvinyl chloride (PVC), brominated flame retardants (BFRs) and other materials] from its computer products until 2011, citing a lack of suitable alternatives. GreenBiz.com.

[Environmental health 101: Are compact fluorescent light bulbs really better than incandescent?](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

The up side of compact fluorescent light bulbs is that they are more energy efficient than incandescent light bulbs of an equivalent brightness. However, mercury is an essential component of the compact fluorescent light bulb. Examiner.com.

[Mercury rising.](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

There are no active mercury mines in the United States today. Some of the mines were properly sealed and cleaned. Some are in the process of being cleaned up. Most have been abandoned without any remediation. According to the best estimates, there are 236 mercury mines in California. San Luis Obispo New Times, California.

[Steelworks families win birth-defect battle.](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Families who claimed their children's birth defects were caused by exposure to toxic chemicals at a former steelworks have won a landmark ruling against their local council. Edinburgh Scotsman, Scotland.

[Playgrounds: They're safer but still can be dangerous.](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Playgrounds are much safer than they were 30 years ago. Playgrounds with rubber mulch have the lowest rate of injury. Some environmental groups, however, are concerned about the safety of rubber mulch, which can contain lead. USA Today.

[See a related article: [Toxicity of play sand worries parents](#)]

['BPA-free' bottles leach chemical: study.](#)

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Health Canada scientists have found bisphenol A leaching into liquid in plastic baby bottles marketed to parents as being free of the toxic chemical. Canwest News Service, Canada.

[See a related article with Health Canada's response: [Toxin amounts in baby bottles tiny: Health Canada](#) and two about government action on BPA and young children: [State warns on bottles with BPA](#) and [Congress to FDA: Prove bisphenol A safe, or ban it](#)]

[Beach pollution still nationwide problem.](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Raw sewage and other pollution continued to foul American beaches in 2008. For the fourth year in a row, more than 20,000 beach closing days were reported in the USA, according to a report released today by the Natural Resources Defense Council. USA Today.

[Concerned about toxic mercury in some Western Alaska pike, state releases guidelines.](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

State and federal officials issued guidelines advising pregnant women and children to limit the amount of northern pike they eat from the Kuskokwim and lower Yukon rivers because of concerns about rising levels of methylmercury in the fish. Tundra Drums, Alaska.

[See a related article about mercury contamination in New Jersey: [Dangerous mercury will be removed](#), another from India: [High mercury content in fish worries experts](#) and concerns from Texas: [Despite warnings, some in Donna still catch, eat toxic fish](#)]

[U.S. data on children called badly outdated.](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Serious shortcomings in national data, including an outdated federal measure of household poverty, are undermining the task of identifying and assisting America's most vulnerable children, according to a report issued Tuesday. Associated Press.

[FDA finds little mercury risk in fillings.](#)

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

In a long-awaited and somewhat surprising ruling, the FDA declared yesterday that silver-colored dental fillings contain too little mercury to harm the millions of people - including young children - who've had cavities filled with them, and that only those allergic to mercury need to avoid them. Associated Press.

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
- 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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