



Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington



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 environmental contributors to human health in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. They are archived and searchable on our website: <http://washington.chenw.org/bulletins.html>

CHE-WA Highlights

Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum

CHE-WA's working group on Children's Environmental Health was thrilled to host more than 300 participants at its Northwest Children's Environmental Health Forum last week, October 1-2, in Tukwila, Washington. A diverse audience participated including healthcare providers, students, scientists, policy makers, elected officials' staff, children's advocates, local citizens and more. Elise Miller, national director of CHE, opened the event with a speech emphasizing the importance of scientific research on the environmental factors impacting our children's health and intellectual potential. Ted Schettler, MD, science director for the Science and Environmental Health Network, framed environmental factors in the broader context of social and economic stresses that together exacerbate children's ability to reach their full potential. Other plenary speakers shared the latest research on environmental factors linked to learning and developmental delays, autism, endocrine systems, and impacts that can be passed down through several generations in a family.



The second day of the forum focused on policy opportunities to better protect children's health. CHE-WA was honored to host Ron Sims, the new Undersecretary for Housing and Urban Development, and Martha Berger, EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection, offering perspectives on national efforts to protect children's environmental health.

To learn more about the forum (slides and other materials will be posted within a month), or to join CHE-WA's children's environmental health working group, please visit the CHE-WA website at <http://washington.chenw.org> or email Gail Gensler at gail.gensler@kingcounty.gov.

New members

CHE-Washington welcomes a new member:

- Jen Garcelon, MPH, Port Angeles

For a searchable database of organizations with which CHE-WA members are affiliated, please visit the CHE-WA website: <http://washington.chenw.org/members.html>

Lessons Learned

Alice Hamilton - Occupational Medicine

by Steven G. Gilbert, PhD, DABT

Alice Hamilton, MD, (February 27, 1869 - September 22, 1970) was the founder of occupational medicine. The first female faculty member at Harvard Medical School, Alice Hamilton was well known

for her research in the field of industrial toxic substances. Hamilton helped advocate for fair worker's compensation laws and fought for workplace environments free of dangerous chemicals.



Toxic chemicals such as lead and pesticides easily travel from the workplace to the home on parents' clothes and shoes, exposing children at home. Pregnant women can expose the developing fetus to workplace chemicals. Keeping kids safe, protecting children from chemical exposures, starts with a safe workplace for all workers and families.

More on Alice Hamilton - <http://toxipedia.org/x/lwU>

Looking back to go forward

Lessons Learned is a CHE-WA bulletin feature focusing on an historical event that provides an important lesson for ensuring a more sustainable and healthy environment. Please feel free to send suggestions to [Steve Gilbert](#).

Announcements

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

[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.

[Sister study exceeds recruitment goal: Now the real work begins.](#)

The study has recruited nearly 51,000 women from all walks of life, whose sisters had breast cancer, to participate in this long-term study that is focusing on uncovering environmental and genetic factors that influence breast cancer risk. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

[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: Approaches to Assessing Potential Food Allergy from Genetically Engineered Plants.](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is issuing this request for applications (RFA) for applied research on innovative or improved methods to predict whether or not a pesticide protein is a food allergen. The deadline is January 7, 2010.

[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: Diet, Epigenetic Events, and Cancer Prevention.](#)

The aim of this funding opportunity announcement (FOA), issued by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS), of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is to promote clinical and preclinical research to determine how diet and dietary factors, including dietary supplements, impact DNA methylation, histone posttranslational modification, noncoding RNA, and other epigenetic processes involved in cancer prevention and development. 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: Nutrition and Physical Activity Research to Promote Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Health.](#)

The FOA from the National Institutes of Health aims to (1) improve knowledge of the contribution of diet and physical activity to these conditions and how sleep influences these relationships, (2) increase the evidence base for refining public health recommendations and clinical guidelines regarding these lifestyle behaviors, and (3) develop and test strategies to improve the adoption of these recommendations. The closing date is September 8, 2012.

[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.chenw.org/cgi-bin/searchevents.cgi>.

1) Climate Change: Mastering the Public Health Role

Tuesday October 13, 2009
noon - 1:00 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: American Public Health Association, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Society for Public Health Education, the National Association of County & City Health Officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Public health professionals have the opportunity to participate in a new webinar series covering climate change. Topics will include the basic science of climate change, impacts to human health, the role of public health in climate change action plans, vulnerable populations, communication challenges, case studies, and more. This webinar is the first in a series. The presentations will be made available after the webcast.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

2) 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

3) 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** or info@healthandenvironment.org

4) Chemicals in Schools: Real Problems, Real Solutions

Thursday October 15, 2009

1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern time

Sponsor: US Environmental Protection Agency

When it comes to students' health, our kids deserve the best protection possible. These days, elementary and secondary schools have many important safety issues to deal with, not the least of which is to ensure that students are protected from dangerous chemicals where they learn. Join us for the Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign RCC Web Academy to hear from school, community and industry experts who have all grappled with school chemical-management issues and come away from the experience with valuable lessons learned and stories to share. In addition to expertise in their respective fields, each of the panelists bring very fresh perspectives on chemical management in K-12 schools to the table. All three panelists recently participated in the White House "United We Serve" summer service initiative. The US Environmental Protection Agency recognized the panelists for their efforts to implement sustainable long-term responsible chemical management and to inventory and safely dispose of over 500 pounds of outdated, unknown and unneeded chemicals in Grandview, Missouri. They will discuss their experiences in the webinar. Speakers will be Patricia Johnson, Science Department chair at Grandview High School; Tita LaGrimas, executive vice president of Regulatory Affairs, Pollution Control Industries (PCI); and Roarke Holzschuh, state on-scene coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The target audience for this call is federal, state, local and tribal government waste-management professionals.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Janice Johnson, **703-308-7280**

5) Fundamental Contaminant Chemistry

Monday October 19, 2009

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

Seattle, Washington

at Northwest Environmental Training Center, 650 South Orcas Street, Suite 220

Sponsor: Northwest Environmental Training Center

This course provides participants with an overview of key chemistry concepts associated with environmental contamination and provides a foundation for understanding contaminant transport and fate. This material is intended for environmental professionals who are not chemists, but who require a fundamental understanding of chemistry principles for their work. This course is recommended for all environmental professionals working with contaminated soil and water with minimal formal training in the subject. It is also recommended for project managers seeking a review of the subject. This course is part of a series and is immediately followed by the Contaminant Chemistry and Transport in Soil and Groundwater Workshop and then the Monitored Natural Attenuation course. Attendees may register for courses individually.

Price: \$250, or \$195 reduced tuition available for Native American tribes; government employees; nonprofits; students; and NAEP, NEBC, NWAEP members

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Northwest Environmental Training Center, **206-762-1979** or info@nwetc.org

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

Monday October 19 - Wednesday October 28, 2009

Sponsor: EcoRes Forum

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

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

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

7) The Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis and Air Pollution (MESA Air): Mid-Course Update

Thursday October 22, 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

Joel Kaufman, MD, MPH, will speak.

Price: free

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: Sarah Fischer, fischs@u.washington.edu

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) IPM Professional Workshop

Wednesday November 4, 2009

7:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (full-day and half-day options)

city, state country

at South Seattle Community College

Sponsor: Seattle Public Utilities and funded by the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County with support from South Seattle Community College and Lake Washington Technical College

The first of two professional workshops, this one is titled "From Edible Landscapes to Green Infrastructure: The Full Toolkit of IPM Approaches." The Green Gardening Program is an effort to promote alternatives to lawn and garden chemicals. A full agenda is

available on the flyer on the website. One session will be conducted in Spanish.

Price: full day \$50 (includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and sessions) or half day \$35 (does not include lunch)

[Visit the website](#)

Contact: 206-449-1149

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.

[Bad air quality could trigger appendicitis.](#)

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Short-term exposure to air pollution could trigger appendicitis in adults, possibly because pollutants cause inflammatory responses, according to a Canadian study published Monday. Reuters Health.

[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.

[Adding up the radiation from scans.](#)

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Since August, patients who undergo CT scans at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center have gotten a little something extra: a record of the amount of radiation they were exposed to during the test. Washington Post.

[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](#)

[Healthy foods carry hidden dangers, new study finds.](#)

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Researchers analyzed federal data collected since 1990 to identify the foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration that caused the largest numbers of foodborne-illness outbreaks. The 10 riskiest foods were, in descending order: leafy greens, eggs, tuna, oysters, potatoes, cheese, ice cream, tomatoes, sprouts and berries. Washington Post.

['Spanish flu' affected long-term health of unborn babies: Study.](#)

Tuesday, October 06, 2009

Canada's original H1N1 epidemic -- back in 1918 -- affected babies in the womb, causing them to have higher rates of heart disease later in life, a new study shows. Canwest News Service.

[See related articles: [Flu virus behind infant pneumonia in poor countries](#) and [Pollution puts people at greater risk of H1N1 flu](#)]

[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.

The dish on phosphates.

Monday, October 05, 2009

Pennsylvania is among 15 states that have banned dishwasher detergents containing phosphates - compounds that are great for sparkling silverware, but become an algae-nourishing problem once they wash down the drain. But will the new kinds work as well? Philadelphia Inquirer, Pennsylvania.

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](#)]

The social costs of childhood lead exposure in the post-lead regulation era.

Sunday, October 04, 2009

Reducing blood lead levels to less than 1 µg/dL among all US children between birth and age 6 years would reduce crime and increase on-time high school graduation rates later in life. Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

[See related journal articles: [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](#)]

The big idea that might beat cancer and cut health-care costs by 80 percent.

Saturday, October 03, 2009

Paul Ewald says infections are responsible for at least four-fifths of all cancers -- and we have the tools to prevent them. Discover.

Stress can protect against cancer; New study confirms confounding in cell phone project.

Saturday, October 03, 2009

Mice that were placed under short-term stress before being exposed to UV radiation, a known cancer-causing agent, developed fewer skin tumors than those that just got the UV. Microwave News.

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.

[The effect of our surroundings on body weight.](#)

Friday, October 02, 2009

Results of a large number of studies support the conclusion that environmental cues exert a powerful influence on our eating behaviors. Scientific American.

[See related articles: [Mom's obesity tied to daughters' early puberty](#) and [Excess weight prior to conception tied to congenital heart defects](#)]

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[Meteorologically estimated exposure but not distance predicts asthma symptoms in schoolchildren in the environs of a petrochemical refinery: a cross-sectional study.](#)

Saturday, September 26, 2009

The results support the hypothesis of an increased prevalence of asthma symptoms among children in the area as a result of refinery emissions and provide a substantive basis for community concern. Environmental Health.

[Neonatal organophosphorus pesticide exposure alters the developmental trajectory of cell signaling cascades controlling metabolism: Differential effects of diazinon and parathion.](#)

Friday, September 25, 2009

These findings indicate that OPs alter the trajectory of hepatic cell signaling in a manner consistent with the observed emergence of prediabetes-like metabolic dysfunction. Environmental Health Perspectives.

[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.

[J&J recalls some infant's, children's Tylenol lots.](#)

Friday, September 25, 2009

Johnson & Johnson said on Thursday it is recalling 57 different lots of infants' and children's Tylenol manufactured between April and June 2008 because of a possible bacterial contamination of the popular pain and fever treatment. Reuters.

[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.

[Chemicals in breast milk linked to testicular cancer.](#)

Friday, September 25, 2009

Pollutant chemicals in mothers' breast milk have been linked to an increased rate of testicular cancer. A study in Denmark suggests hormone-disrupting chemicals such as pesticides may explain why so many men in the country develop the disease. London Daily Mail, United Kingdom.

[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.

[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.

[Inadequate vit D doses boosting elderly heart disease death risk.](#)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Older people with insufficient levels of vitamin D may be at an increased risk of dying from heart disease than those with adequate levels of the vitamin, says a new study. Nutraingredients.com.

[US should watch for animal disease, institute says.](#)

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

The United States needs to lead a global effort to protect people from new outbreaks of deadly infectious diseases that originate in animals, such as swine flu, AIDS and SARS, health experts said on Tuesday. Reuters.

[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.

Many 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 and learning and developmental disabilities: <http://www.iceh.org/LDDIbulletins.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 Washington State Regional 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 Washington State regional group at the bottom of the application.

Nancy Snow
Collaborative on Health and the Environment

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