

MARCH 2020



**The Official Newsletter of the PEHSU
Program**



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National News:

A note from the National Program Office:

During these uncertain times, the PEHSU National Program Office at the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) sends all of the PEHSUs and their partners working both on the front lines and behind-the-scenes of the COVID-19 pandemic a heartfelt "thank you" for all that you have done, are doing, and will continue to do for children and families. We know that both personal and professional stress makes your work even more challenging and we are grateful for your continued commitment and perseverance in all that you do.

The AAP is doing everything in its power to support health professionals as well as families during the pandemic. Please reach out to us at any time by sending an email to COVID19@aap.org to find resources and information, and/or visit the websites below:

- AAP.org: <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/>
- HealthyChildren.org: <https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/chest-lungs/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx>

PEHSU National Program Office

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Region 1
New England
PEHSU

New Outreach Event and Collaborations

Health Educators Matthew Spence, MPH, and Kim Manning, MA, CHES, NBC-HWC collaborated with the Boston Public Health Commission, the Toxicology Department at Boston Children's Hospital, and the Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) to provide awareness of current and ongoing childhood lead exposures at the New England Home Shows in Boston, MA and Marlborough, MA. This was a good opportunity to remind contractors and families about the importance of reducing their lead exposures for those living and working through the renovations.



Collaborative Efforts in Vaping

Health Educator Kim Manning co-lead a vaping workshop at the 2020 Partnership for Environmental Public Health (PEPH) in Durham, NC with Ann Backus, MS of Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Judith Zelikoff, PhD, NYUMC-NIEHS EHS Core Center. The event "Vaping Workshop: Devices, Materials, Resources, and Communication" was an opportunity for participants to share and discuss a variety of vaping-related materials, conduct a gap analysis to assess the need for additional materials or resources, and create a generic checklist to guide the development of future of vaping materials. In addition, Ms Manning presented a video of her "vaping chamber" with do-it-yourself instructions. This vaping chamber is used for educational purposes to demonstrate that the aerosol from e-cigarettes is more than water vapor and is unsafe.

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Region 5

Great Lakes Centers for
Reproductive and
Children's
Environmental Health

Beth Neary, MD, MPH, FAAP, the Wisconsin PEHSU Affiliate of Region 5, was part of the steering committee that organized the Wisconsin Environmental Health Network's event "Making the Connection- Environmental Health Conference" on March 6 in Madison, WI. Speakers discussed Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) water degradation, air quality tools, tick-borne disease, neurodevelopmental risk from environmental exposures, and environmental justice. Many healthcare providers and public health professionals attended the event.

Publications



Mark E. Anderson, MD, FAAP, Lauren Zajac, MD, MPH, FAAP, Erin Thanik, MD, MPH, and Maida Galvez, MD, MPH, FAAP co-authored, Home visits for Pediatric Asthma- A strategy for comprehensive asthma management through prevention and reduction of environmental asthma triggers for the *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).

Marissa Hauptman, MD, MPH, FAAP, John Balmes, MD, and Mark D. Miller, MD, MPH co-wrote, The hazards of wildfire smoke exposure for children in the *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*. The article evaluates the health impacts of climate change, and predicts that the frequency and intensity of wildfires will increase as climate change creates longer, warmer, and drier seasons. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).

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Publications Continued

Bryan Stierman, MD, MPH, FAAP, Marissa Hauptman, MD, MPH, FAAP, and Alan D. Woolf, MD, MPH, FAAP, FACMT, FAACT co-wrote, Severe lead poisoning requiring hospitalization: A case report for the *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*. The article explores a case of severe childhood lead poisoning, highlighting the variable presentation, the rebound phenomenon of blood lead level (BLL) after chelation, the usefulness of the zinc protoporphyrin as an adjunctive monitoring parameter, and the importance of early involvement of an inter-personal team. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).

Sukhushant K. Atti, MD, Elizabeth M. Silver, PharmD, Yer Chokshi, DO, Sue Casteel, Emily Kiernan, DO, Rogelio de la Cruz, MD, Ziad Kazzi, MD, and Robert J. Geller, MD, FAAP co-wrote All that glitters in not gold: Mercury poisoning in a family mimicking an infectious illness in the *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care*. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).

Laura Anderko, PhD, RN and Emma Pennea, MSGH, BA co-wrote, Exposures to per-and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): Potential risks to reproductive and children's health in the *Current Problems in Pediatric and Adolescent Health Care Journal*. The article provides a brief description about the health risks associated with PFAS exposure, methods for reducing exposure, and key messages for clinicians. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).

Stephanie Chalupka, EdD, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAOHN, FNAP, Dr Anderko, and Emma Pennea co-wrote Climate change, climate justice, and children's mental health: A generation at risk for *Environmental Justice Journal*. This article describes the wide range of mental health considerations for children as it relates to climate changes including depression, child abuse, and violence. The article can be found on the Environmental Justice Journal [website](#).

Dr Anderko, Phoebe Pollitt PhD, RN, Barbara Sattler MPH, DrPH, RN, FAAN, Patricia G. Butterfield PhD, RN, FAAN, Charlotte Brody, RN, et al., co-wrote, Environmental nursing: Leaders reflect on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day for the *Public Health Nursing Journal*. In celebration of Earth Day, this article recognizes nurse leaders in environmental health, with summarizing their work. The article can be found on the Public Health Nursing Journal [website](#).

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Publications Continued

Lauren Zajac, MD, MPH, FAAP, Sarah A. Johnson, MD, MPH, and Marissa Hauptman, MD, MPH, FAAP co-wrote, Doc, can you test me for "toxic metal"? Challenges of testing for toxicants in patients with environmental concerns. This article provides an overview of how to approach a child and family with environmental concerns about "toxic metals", select appropriate metal tests if indicated, and enlist the assistance of the PEHSU for further management guidance. The article can be found on the Science Direct [website](#).



National Healthy Schools Day 2020: April 7, 2020

“This annual day of focus on the environmental health of our children and their schools has never been more important!” Claire Barnett, founder and executive direction of the Healthy Schools Network. The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every aspect of people’s lives in the United States and around the world. For millions of communities, the seriousness of the crisis became clear when schools and childcare facilities began to close. When schools reopen for the 55 million children who learn, and the 7 million adults who work in them every day, this will be the strongest signal that normalcy has returned. National Healthy Schools Day (NHSD) participants will call attention to the unique opportunity presented by empty schools for administrators, teachers and staff, elected officials, and parents and community members to do their part to ensure schools are safe and healthy when the time comes for children to return to their classrooms. Now is a time for delayed preventive maintenance and other unexpected opportunities to improve our children’s schools. This year, scores of NHSD participants will disseminate important information and resources on cleaning, disinfecting, and catching up on maintaining and repairing schools -- using both in-house staff and local trades -- while children are out of the building. The same efforts can be targeted at child care centers as well. NHSD participants will also urge Congress to support US EPA’s proposed Healthy Schools/Healthy Children Grants Program, the Rebuild America’s Schools Act, and other measures to support schools in the myriad roles they provide for their communities. Schools provide care for children, local jobs, and offer public spaces and services as central hubs in our communities. Preliminary information about NHSD is available on the National Healthy Schools Day [website](#).

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Upcoming Events Continued

Save the Date: 2020 Prenatal Programming and Toxicity (PPTOX) meeting September 30-October 3, 2020

Mark your calendars! The 2020 Prenatal Programming and Toxicity (PPTOX) meeting, the seventh such international gathering, will be held in downtown Chicago, Illinois at the Northwestern Hospital Conference Center on September 30 - October 3, 2020. It will include a mixture of invited front-line presentations, video sessions with prominent colleagues, contributed oral presentations and posters, a trainee forum and targeted discussions. The PPTOX conference will attract toxicologists, epidemiologists, pediatricians, endocrinologists, basic biologists and other specialists, educators, and regulators with an interest in environmental health, developmental toxicity, and human disease etiologies. One of the keynote speakers will be Susan Buchanan, MD, MPH, director of the Region 5 PEHSU/ Great Lakes Center for Children's Environmental Health. More information can be found on the International Conference on Prenatal Programming and Toxicity [website](#).

Save the Date: Health and Safety and Housing Inspection: April 14, 2020

On Tuesday, April 14, David Hewitt, PhD, an analyst for National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, is hosting a virtual meeting Health and Safety and Housing Inspection. The meeting can be accessed via Zoom:

<https://georgetown.zoom.us/j/412956867>

Meeting Id: 412956867

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Expiring
Continuing
Education (CE)

Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Potential Sources - March 14, 2018
Webinar Ground Rounds: Laura Anderko PhD, RN, Susan Buchanan, MD, MPH, and Alan Woolf, MD, MPH, FAAP, FAACT, FACMT
Expiration Date: March 17, 2020

Understanding the Role of Phthalates and Phenols in Fertility, Pregnancy, and Child Health: From Research to Prevention- March 21, 2018
Webinar Grand Rounds: Carmen Messerlian, PhD, MSc
Expiration Date: April 24, 2020

Radon: Is My Family At Risk?- May 22, 2018
Journal Club Webinar: Keith Baker, MD and Nicklaus Brandehoff, MD
Expiration Date: May 22, 2020

This material was supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and funded (in part) by the cooperative agreement award number 1 NU61TS000296-01-00 from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Acknowledgement: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports the PEHSU by providing partial funding to ATSDR under Inter-Agency Agreement number DW-75-95877701. Neither EPA nor ATSDR endorse the purchase of any commercial products or services mentioned in PEHSU publications.

Any content suggestions for future issues? Please send to imontoya@aap.org