



THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

NOVEMBER 2012



Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Nurse Consultant

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

As Connecticut and our neighboring states continue to respond to the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, school districts and local homeless education liaisons are reminded to consider the needs and challenges confronting children and youth displaced by this disaster. Children who have to leave their homes because of hurricanes or other disasters lose a lot of things, but they do not lose their right to go school. The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act ensures educational rights and protections for children and youth experiencing homelessness.

During times of upheaval, school becomes more than just a classroom. It is a place where children can find safety, friendship, learning, sports, clubs, nurses, counseling, clothes, free meals, fun, and a return to how life was before they left home. School can also be a place where parents can find support and information on programs and services that can help them get back on their feet.

The following link provides access to a series of handbooks from the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) that explains how the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act applies to students displaced by disaster and how the Act can assist these students and their families. Each handbook targets information to either parents of displaced children, relief agencies, or educators. The entire series may be linked to directly at http://center.serve.org/nche/pr/dis_hb.php.

Please feel free to contact Louis B. Tallarita, MSW, Education Consultant, at louis.tallarita@ct.gov directly if you require additional guidance or technical assistance related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and supporting the needs of children experiencing homelessness.

Storm Preparation Safety Reminder from Connecticut Poison Control

By: Chris DeFrancesco

The Connecticut Poison Control Center at the University of Connecticut Health Center is issuing a reminder about the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning and how to keep your family safe from it.

With past storms' carbon monoxide (CO) cases in mind, poison center experts have these recommendations:

- make sure your home is equipped with a working carbon monoxide detector, with battery backup, ideally installed near sleeping areas;
- do not use propane or kerosene heaters inside your home. It is also not recommended to heat your home with your gas oven or stove top;
- use generators outside and at least 20 feet from your home. Keep your generator away from doors, windows or air intake vents. Make sure outside vents are not blocked with snow or leaves. Poison center data show that generators were the most likely source of CO poisoning in past storms;
- never use generators, charcoal grills, gas grills or other gasoline powered tools indoors or in a garage, carport, basement or other enclosed space, such as a covered porch;
- early symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness and loss of muscle control. Severe symptoms can include convulsions and unconsciousness that can lead to death; and
- if your CO alarm goes off, or if you experience symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, go outside immediately, use your cell phone or a neighbor's phone to call the poison center or 911.

Health care professionals and the public can call the Poison Control Center any time, day or night, at 1-800-222-1222 to report poisonings and get immediate treatment advice from poison specialists.

The full article dated October 26, 2012, is located at <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2012/10/storm-preparation-safety-reminder-from-ct-poison-control/>.

DPH Announces Boil Water Advisories in Public Drinking Water Systems

Small Public Water Systems Affected; Large Public Water Systems Safe

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that 82 small public drinking water systems in the state are under a boil water advisory. The majority of public water suppliers, including the larger public water systems which serve approximately 2.7 million Connecticut residents, were able to maintain water safety and service throughout the storm.

Public drinking water systems that are experiencing power outages and do not have a backup power source are issuing boil water advisories as a precautionary measure. DPH is monitoring these systems and working to contact other small public drinking water systems to determine their status and offer assistance as needed. Affected public water systems will notify customers if a boil water advisory is announced.

While some large public water supply systems in the state lost their normal power source, emergency power capabilities allowed them to operate normally to protect their water supply. DPH continues to monitor and provide assistance to these systems to ensure drinking water safety.

Residents Under Boil Water Advisory

Residential customers who have been advised by their water system of a boil water advisory should:

- Safely boil their water by bringing it to a rolling boil for one minute. A rolling boil means that there are very large bubbles in the water, making the water move very quickly. Make sure the water does not have any floating pieces in it before you boil it. To make the boiled water taste better, pour the water back and forth between two clean containers a few times. Boiled water should be allowed to cool to a safe temperature before drinking or handling.
- Use boiled or bottled water when cooking, washing fruits and vegetables, brushing teeth, or making baby formula. Boiled water should be allowed to cool to a safe temperature before drinking and handling.
- Use water that has previously boiled and cooled to a safe temperature or bottled water to wash hands when cooking.
- An alternative method of purification for residents that do not have gas or electricity is to use liquid household bleach to disinfect water. The bleach product should be recently purchased, free of additives and scents, and should contain a hypochlorite solution of at least 5.25%. Public health officials recommend adding 8 drops of bleach (about ¼ teaspoon) to each gallon of water. The water should be stirred and allowed to stand for at least 30 minutes before use.
- Adults and older children do not need to use boiled water to shower or bathe, but should try not to swallow any water or get any water into their mouths. *Infants, toddlers, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems should be bathed using water that has been previously boiled and cooled to a safe temperature or bottled water.*

Homeowners in flooded areas whose private wells have flooded should consider their wells contaminated. For information on disinfecting flooded wells, go to www.ct.gov/dph/floods.

A list of systems under boil water advisory will be updated daily and posted on DPH's Hurricane Sandy Web page at www.ct.gov/dph (under Featured Links/Hurricane Sandy) and directly at http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/communications/cerc/sandy_boilwater.pdf. For more information on Hurricane Sandy recovery, go to www.ct.gov/sandy.

The DPH is the state's leader in public health policy and advocacy with a mission to protect and promote the health and safety of the people of our state. To contact the department, please visit its Web site at www.ct.gov/dph or call 860-509-7270.

The full advisory dated October 31, 2012, is located on the DPH Web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=4186&q=513288>.

Free Professional Development Opportunity



Sexual Health Education: Making the Connection Between Healthy Behaviors and Student Achievement

December 13, 2012, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Cromwell

Registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education and
the Department of Public Health.

Research consistently concludes that student health status and student achievement are directly connected, and that student health is one of the most significant influences on learning and achievement. Today's students are faced with a myriad of health and mental health issues. These health issues impede academic outcomes.

Sexual health education is one vital component of a planned, ongoing and systematic health education program. This training will provide participants with strategies and resources to improve student achievement by focusing on sexual health education policies, programs and healthy behaviors. Participants will:

- ✦ Expand awareness in current trends in sexual health education;
- ✦ Identify the link between national and state sexual health education standards;
- ✦ Learn strategies to advocate for medically-accurate, developmentally-appropriate sexual health policies and programs;
- ✦ Identify age- and developmentally- appropriate educational resources;
- ✦ Discuss national and state best practices and successes in implementing sexual health education; and
- ✦ Share strategies for reaching populations at higher risk for HIV/STD/teen pregnancy.



The State of Connecticut Department
of Education is an affirmative
action/equal opportunity employer.

Keynote Speaker

*Strategies to Improve Student Achievement
by Focusing on Sexual Health Education
Policies, Programs and Resources*

Nora Gelperin, M.Ed.
ANSWER, Rutgers University

Featured Resource



[Connecticut Guidelines for Sexual Health Education
Component of Comprehensive Health Education](#)

Target Audience: Districts are encouraged to send *teams*
consisting of school staff and community members.

There is no cost for this event. Space is limited to 150
participants. *Certificates of attendance will be provided.*

Register:

Online: www.educationconnection.org

E-mail: luchene@educationconnection.org

Telephone: 860-567-0863 (Nancy Luchene)

Registration deadline is December 5, 2012.



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