



# THE SCHOOL NURSE BULLETIN

## FEBRUARY 2013



**Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Nurse Consultant**

### **2012-13 Annual Identification of Students without Health Insurance**

In May 2008, the Connecticut State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Social Services, requested that school districts establish a systematic approach to identify students who lack health insurance and develop a system to consistently provide families of students identified as lacking health insurance with HUSKY information. This ongoing effort fulfills Section 10-206c of the Connecticut General Statutes' requirement that local school districts identify children who lack health insurance and provide information to their parents about the HUSKY plan. This memo serves as a reminder to school districts of the mandate to annually identify students without health insurance.

Approaches to identifying students who lack health insurance include capturing information from:

- the required health assessment form for students entering school and again in Grades 6 or 7 and 9 or 10; and
- the annual emergency contact forms for all students enrolled in the district.

In addition to these approaches, the individual school district may have other systems in place, such as parent liaisons, school-based health centers and family resource centers that may be critical partners in providing families with HUSKY information.

Questions about the HUSKY plan, enrollment or applications, should be directed to the HUSKY information hotline at 1-877-CT-HUSKY or visit their Web site at [www.huskyhealth.com](http://www.huskyhealth.com). If you have questions regarding annual identification of students without health insurance, please contact Stephanie Knutson, School Health Consultant at 860-807-2108 or [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov).

### **High Levels of Influenza Activity Reported – Get Vaccinated!**

So far this season, 91 percent of the influenza viruses are like those found in the vaccine. The pediatric deaths this season are a somber reminder of the danger flu poses to children. Even previously healthy children can become seriously ill. 40 percent of children hospitalized had no identified underlying medical conditions. It's not too late to get vaccinated! For weekly Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) surveillance data access the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

An important role for the school nurse is to get vaccinated and recommend the flu vaccine to students and staff to provide personal protection, and protection for those most vulnerable in our communities. For more information go to <http://www.preventinfluenza.org/> or <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/>.

### **Ordering School Health Records for 2013-14 School Year**

It is time to order Cumulative Health Records (CHR-1) and Health Assessment Records (HAR-3) for delivery in May 2013, and use in the 2013-14 school year. Each district must determine the number of CHR-1 and HAR-3 forms needed based on its student population and number of forms currently in stock.

Please send in your order forms to Glenda Stuckey at [glenda.stuckey@po.state.ct.us](mailto:glenda.stuckey@po.state.ct.us) before March 1, 2013. We do not stock an excess of extra forms at the Connecticut State Department of Education, therefore please order enough to cover your needs for one year. Please remember your district needs to share its supply with appropriate medical practitioners and other schools in its community. Orders will be sent to the school district by the end of May 2013.

## **!! 2013-14 Immunization Requirements !!**

The immunization requirements for enrolled students in Connecticut schools during the 2013-14 school year are located on the Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/deps/student/health/Schoollmmunizations.pdf>.

## **Updated Accommodating Special Dietary Needs in School Nutrition Programs**

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) recently updated [Accommodating Special Dietary Needs in School Nutrition Programs](#) to include additional guidance on celiac disease and reflect the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) new requirements for school meals. The revised version (dated January 2013) is now online on the CSDE's [Special Diets](#) Web page. The [Summary Chart](#) is also updated.

**Please discard the previous versions and replace with the January 2013 documents.** The medical statements dated September 2011 (*Medical Statement for Children with Disabilities* and *Medical Statement for Children without Disabilities*) have not changed.

Please visit the CSDE's [Special Diets](#) Web page for more information on special diets, including the USDA requirements, federal regulations, guidance and resources.

## *Professional Development Opportunities*

### **The National Center for Homeless Education Webinar Opportunities**

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) continues to host webinars that focus on issues related to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. During NCHE webinars, presenters explain important concepts, while also giving participants the opportunity to ask questions and interact with each other from the comfort of your own desk. The following webinars are **free of charge**:

**McKinney-Vento 101: Knowing and Applying the Law**

Thursday, February 21, 2013  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services**

Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**McKinney-Vento 101: Knowing and Applying the Law**

Tuesday, March 12, 2013  
2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Determining Eligibility for McKinney-Vento Rights and Services**

Thursday, March 14, 2013  
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

**Supporting the Education of Unaccompanied Homeless Students**

Tuesday, March 26, 2013; 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Developing an Effective School District Homeless Education Protocol**

Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

To register for any of these webinars, please visit <http://center.serve.org/nche/web/group.php>. Feel free to pass along this information to interested colleagues. Take advantage of these opportunities for quality professional development!



## Lead Awareness and Management Workshops

Sponsored by the Connecticut State Departments of Education and Public Health



### Choose from one of the following **FREE** sessions:

- **March 27, 2013** • EASTCONN Administrative Offices, 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, CT 06247  
8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. • **Course #:** 1225300750
- **March 25, 2013** • Crowne Plaza, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416 • 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.  
**Course #:** 1225300748



Through stimulating presentations and action-oriented activities school teams will learn up-to-date research related to the effects of lead

exposure on child development and learning, school district responsibilities in identifying and intervening with students who have a history of lead poisoning, and resources available for training other school personnel.

#### As a result of participating in this workshop, attendees will:

- gain additional knowledge in lead management and awareness;
- understand the effects of lead exposure on child development and learning; and
- contribute to school district development of administrative procedures related to lead poisoning prevention and intervention.

**Facilitator:** Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, School Health Consultant, Connecticut State Department of Education

**Fee:** FREE (includes breakfast and lunch)

**CEUs:** 0.5

**Register by:** 3/13/13



Register online at <http://www.eastconn.org/index.php/registration/csde-reg>. Click on the title. You will need to input your 4-digit PIN Number and a valid Purchase Order (P.O.) number from your school. **Note:** If you will be paying by a personal check and not using a P.O., you will receive a confirmation via e-mail to send in with your check.

If you have questions regarding registration, or have difficulty using the online form, e-mail [conferenceoffice@eastconn.org](mailto:conferenceoffice@eastconn.org), or call 860-455-1533. Weather-related closings or delay information can be found online the day of the event at <http://www.eastconn.org/index.php/closings-delays>, or call 860-455-0420.

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## Professional Development Opportunity



The Connecticut State Department of Education  
presents the following opportunity for school nurses,  
school nurse supervisors and administrators

### Spring 2013 School Nurse Supervisor Conference

Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Crowne Plaza Cromwell, 100 Berlin Road,  
Cromwell, Connecticut 06416



Facilitator.....Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN,  
School Health Consultant,  
Connecticut State Department  
of Education  
Fee.....\$50.00 per person  
CEUs.....0.5  
Register by .....3/26/13  
Course # .....1225300624

This activity will provide school nurse supervisors with information on multiple state initiatives and trends in the state. Additionally, school nurse supervisors will have the opportunity to network with colleagues.

As a result of attending this conference,  
participants will:

- gain additional knowledge in the role of school nurse in mandated reporting and behavioral health;
- gain additional knowledge in the role of school health services in school reform;
- gain additional knowledge in health promotion of school nursing services; and
- gain additional knowledge in state-mandated immunization regulations.

Register online at [www.registereastconn.org](http://www.registereastconn.org).

Click on the event title. You will need to input your four-digit PIN number and a valid Purchase Order (P.O.) number from your school. Note: If you will be paying by a personal check and not using a P.O., you will receive an invoice via e-mail to send in with your check.

If you have questions regarding registration, or have difficulty using the online form, e-mail [conferenceoffice@eastconn.org](mailto:conferenceoffice@eastconn.org), or call 860-455-1533.

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### Nondiscrimination Statement

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