



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



## Welcome back!

The Connecticut State Department of Education's School Nurse Bulletin (Bulletin) is the communication tool from the School Health Consultant's Office that keeps Connecticut school nurses and school nurse supervisors informed and involved. Bulletins are sent electronically to school nurse supervisors for dissemination to school nurses in their districts on a monthly basis. Bulletins are also located on the Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768>.

The services that Connecticut school nurses provide to our students year after year is important; and we appreciate your persistence, your involvement and your dedication. Welcome back and best wishes for a safe, healthy and productive year!

*Stephanie G. Knutson  
School Health Consultant*

Source: State Department of Education News  
**State Board of Education Names Coleman  
Acting Education Commissioner**

Deputy Education Commissioner George A. Coleman of Sandy Hook has been named Acting Commissioner of Education, effective January 6, 2011, by vote of the Connecticut State Board of Education. Coleman will serve as the Department of Education's chief executive officer until a new commissioner is appointed.

Mr. Coleman, who has served as Deputy Commissioner, Associate Commissioner of the Division of Teaching and Learning Programs and Services, and Chief of the Bureaus of Early Childhood Education and of Curriculum and Instruction, joined the Department in 1987. He began his career as a classroom teacher at St. Mark's School of Learning, Brooklyn, New York, in 1972. He served as Interim Commissioner of Education from August 2006, to April 2007. Mr. Coleman has served on many professional and community boards and councils, including the state and local United Way, NAACP, the Connecticut State Birth-to-Three Council, Connecticut Commission on Children, Junior Achievement, and The Hartford Foundation, based in Danbury.

Mr. Coleman states that he expects "to carry on the work of the State Board of Education with emphasis on school reform and improvement, early childhood education and closing the achievement gap."

The full article may be accessed at the Connecticut State Department of Education Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp>.



### *Special Points of Interest:*

- *Additional Medication Regulations Workshops - 2011 - pg 3*
- *Carbon Monoxide - pg2*
- *Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference - pg 4*
- *Critical Issues in School Nursing Conference - pg 4*

## Immunization Requirements for: 2011-12 School Year

The **2011-12** immunization requirements for newly enrolled students at Connecticut schools is not yet available from the State Department of Public Health. The 2010-11 requirements can be accessed at the Connecticut State Department of Education's Health Promotion Services/School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768> (scroll down to "Health Forms").

**A message from:  
The Connecticut Poison Control Center,  
a service of The University of Connecticut Health Center  
Regarding**

**Carbon Monoxide**

Carbon monoxide is *invisible!* The colorless, odorless, and tasteless gas is a byproduct of burning organic fuels.

**Sources:**

- household appliances and equipment fueled with gas, oils, coal, kerosene or wood; and
- examples: furnaces, water heaters, space heaters, cars, charcoal grills, lanterns, clothes dryers, ovens, fireplaces, lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.

**Causes:**

- malfunctioning appliance or equipment;
- worn or faulty parts; and
- improper venting.

**Symptoms:**

- early symptoms often mimic the flu – headache, nausea, unclear thinking, shortness of breath, weakness, and loss of muscle control; and
- severe symptoms – convulsions, unconsciousness, and possible death.

**Prevention:**

- install a carbon monoxide detector;
- clean and inspect fuel-burning appliances. Use a professional! and
- check for proper ventilation.

**If you suspect carbon monoxide poisoning:**

- leave your home right away!
- call 911 or the Connecticut Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222; and
- call the local fire department to test for carbon monoxide.

**Web site:**

- [http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/education/materials/brochures\\_tipsheets.htm](http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu/education/materials/brochures_tipsheets.htm)

**Connecticut Poison Control Center Services:**

- 24 Hours a day;
- free and confidential;
- staffed by poison experts;
- interpreters available in all languages; and
- TDD # 1-866-218-5372.





## Professional Development & Other Opportunities, cont'd



### Request For Applications: OWH Funding Opportunity to Reduce Health Disparities for Reducing Health Disparities by Preventing Obesity among Minority and Underserved Women and Girls

This Request for Applications is coordinated by John Snow, Inc. on behalf of the United States Health and Human Services Regional Offices on Women's Health. Funding is available for activities and events in support of projects that address obesity prevention in minority and underserved women and girls. Community-based partnerships and collaboration are strongly encouraged. Maximum amount awarded is \$2,500. Deadline is February 10, 2011. Details and additional information is available at The National Women's Health Information Center's Web site at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/about-us/funding-opportunities/>.

### SAVE THE DATE !!

#### 2011 Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference

**When:** Tuesday, April 5, 2011

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut

This activity will provide school nurse supervisors with information to enrich and facilitate their work in Connecticut schools. Registration details and other information will be included in the February 2011, edition of the *School Nurse Bulletin*.

### SAVE THE DATE !!

#### The 33rd Annual School Health Conference Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

#### Critical Issues in School Health 2011

**When:** Thursday, May 5, 2011

**Location:** Farmington Marriott Hotel, Farmington, CT

**Fee: Same Prices As 2010**

Nurses including CEU fee - \$120.00

MD's including CME fee - \$145.00

Look for your registration form **by mail** at the end of February, 2011. For additional information contact Rhonda at 914-734-1269.

#### Open Airways for Schools Facilitator Training

**Date:** March 2, 2011

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** American Lung Association, 45 Ash Street, East Hartford, Connecticut 06108

**Contact:** Michelle Marichal at 860-838-4370 or [mmarichal@lungne.org](mailto:mmarichal@lungne.org)

*This comprehensive training costs \$100 per person. Registration and payment is due by February 25, 2011.*

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...Keeping CT School Nurses  
Informed and Involved!

### Nondiscrimination Statement

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