



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



## Welcome back!

As we approach 2010, I hope that your time off during the holiday season has refreshed your senses; renewed your spirit; and you are filled with energy and enthusiasm for the new year! The services that you provide to our students year after year is important; and we appreciate your persistence, your involvement and your dedication. Again, welcome back and best wishes for a safe, healthy and productive year!

*Stephanie G. Knutson*



## Special Points of Interest:

- *Race to the Top Grant program*
- *2010-11 Immunization Requirements*

## Race to the Top Grant Program

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is preparing a grant application for the new federal grant competition entitled, *Race to the Top*. The *Race to the Top* program is authorized under sections 14005 and 14006 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). *Race to the Top* is a competitive grant program established to reward States that are implementing significant reforms in the four education areas described in the ARRA: enhancing standards and assessments; improving the collection and use of data; increasing teacher effectiveness; and achieving equity in teacher distribution and turning around struggling schools.

As Connecticut prepares its application to meet the January 19, 2010, deadline for Phase I applicants, CSDE Commissioner, Mark K. McQuillan and his staff have been working to respond to complex requirements of the grant. The Commissioner has called together teams of local superintendents, other education leaders, university and business representatives and teachers to help fashion Connecticut's proposal for public school reform. The November 2009 memo released by the Commissioner regarding the CSDE's application and those contributing to its development can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/site/default.asp> (scroll down to "Connecticut Prepares Application for Federal Race to the Top Funding").

The U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) will make awards in two phases, with Phase I funding awarded in Spring 2010 and Phase 2 funding awarded by September 30, 2010. Section 14006(c) of the ARRA requires at least 50 percent of the Race to the Top funding to States to be sub-granted to participating local education agencies (LEAs) according to their relative shares of funding under the Education and Secondary Education Act Title I, Part A program for the most recent year. States have flexibility in allocating the remaining 50 percent of their Race to the Top awards, which are available for State-level activities, disbursements to LEAs and other purposes the State may propose in its plan. For more information on the Race to the Top program, please visit the USDOE Web site at <http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>.

## Immunization Requirements for:

### 2010-11 School Year

The **2010-11** immunization requirements for newly enrolled students at Connecticut schools can be accessed at the Connecticut State Department of Education, 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").



## **Update on Proposed Changes to Immunization Requirements for School Entry 2010-11 School Year**

The Department of Public Health State Immunization Program has informed the Connecticut State Department of Education that the **proposed** new School Immunization Requirements for Fall 2010 will not be finalized in time to be effectively implemented this coming year. The new requirements are now scheduled to go into effect for the Fall 2011-12 school year. The proposed changes include:

### **2nd Dose Varicella Requirement for Kindergarten and 7th Grade School Entry**

The proposed regulations will require two doses of varicella containing vaccine for kindergarten and 7th grade entry beginning in August 2011.

### **2. 2nd Dose Mumps & Rubella Requirement for Kindergarten and 7th Grade School Entry**

The proposed regulations will require two doses of mumps and rubella containing vaccines for kindergarten and 7th grade entry beginning in August 2011.

### **3. Adolescent Tdap Vaccine Requirement for 7th Graders**

The proposed regulations will require a Tdap booster vaccine for 7th grade entry beginning in August 2011.

### **4. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Requirement for Pre-K and K**

The proposed regulations will require one dose of Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine administered after the first birthday for all children in Pre-K and Kindergarten born January 1, 2007, or later and are less than 5 years of age.

In addition to the above mentioned changes, the following three new requirements are scheduled to take effect during the 2011-12 school year:

### **Hepatitis A Requirement for Pre-K and K**

The proposed regulations will require two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine administered at least six months apart for all children in Pre-K and K born January 1, 2007, or later.

### **Meningococcal Requirement for 7th Graders**

The proposed regulations will require one dose of Meningococcal vaccine for 7th grade entry beginning in August 2011.

### **Influenza Requirement for Pre-K**

The proposed regulations will require one dose of influenza vaccine for all children in Pre-Kindergarten 24-59 months of age by January 1, 2012, and each January thereafter.

Once the regulations have completed the regulatory review process, a finalized copy will be sent to all school nursing supervisors and school medical advisors. The **2010-11** immunization requirements for newly enrolled students at Connecticut schools can be accessed at the 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").

Questions regarding the immunization requirements can be directed to the Immunization Program at 860- 509-7929. If you have questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Stephanie Knutson, MSN, RN, School Health Consultant, at 860-807-2108 or [stephanie.knutson@ct.gov](mailto:stephanie.knutson@ct.gov).





### One Day Free Clinic In Hartford!

The National Association of Free Clinics needs your help in recruiting patients and volunteers for the one-day Communities Are Responding Everyday (CARE) clinic on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

The Connecticut CARE clinic is a free health clinic for anyone who is uninsured in the state. Patients will receive preventive primary care services including screenings for cholesterol, blood pressure, blood glucose, HIV, pregnancy, and vision. Most importantly, these free clinics connect the uninsured with safety-net providers such as free clinics, sliding scale clinics and federally qualified health centers located near where the uninsured live so that the patients may receive regular treatment on an ongoing basis. Prospective patients for the Connecticut CARE clinic are encouraged to contact the toll-free number at 877-233-5159 to schedule an appointment.

The Connecticut CARE clinic also needs your help recruiting over 700 volunteers. Health care professionals from all specialties and others as well as non-medical volunteers, including high school, college and health profession students are needed to support this one day clinic. Opportunities for non-medical volunteers include clerical, translation, patient escorts, greeters and logistics. Set up and breakdown help also needed. Volunteers can sign up by visiting [www.regonline.com/ctcare](http://www.regonline.com/ctcare).



### School Indoor Air Quality Requirements and the Tools for Schools Program

#### Important message from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team (CSIERT)

It has come to our attention recently that Connecticut school districts have been contacted by environmental consultants regarding the updated school indoor air quality act (Public Act 09-81, formerly Public Act-220) that requires that all schools have an indoor air program (by January 1, 2008); conduct inspections and evaluations of all buildings; and as of July 1, 2011, implement a green cleaning program. School districts are being offered these consultation services to comply with the updated act. You can view the updated act at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2009/ACT/PA/2009PA-00081-R00HB-06496-PA.htm>.

While it is likely that these consultants can help you meet the requirements of the act, you should also know that school districts that have implemented (completion of our free five hour training program) and sustained the EPA Tools for Schools (TfS) program are considered in compliance with the indoor air quality components of the Act that require an indoor air program.

It is very important that school districts maintain their Tools for Schools program. We offer a 2.5-hour "Refresher" workshop to assist your district. **With the present budget crisis and subsequent cuts in maintenance budgets, the emphasis of this workshop is on no-cost and low-cost interventions that improve indoor environmental quality.** Districts that had the initial implementation training before 2006 and have not had a refresher should contact our office to arrange for this free service.

We offer a free green cleaning evaluation and consultation service; and a 2-3 hour meeting with the facility director and head custodians to provide technical assistance in implementing a green cleaning program. We also offer an "Advanced TfS for Custodial/Facilities Staff" workshop that includes information on the new Connecticut school green cleaning law and infection control issues. These are free programs. No green cleaning products are sold. You may obtain information at the CSIERT Web site at <http://www.csiert.tfsiaq.com>. Please contact Kenny Foscue at 860-509-7740 or [kenny.foscue@ct.gov](mailto:kenny.foscue@ct.gov) or Joan Simpson at [joan.simpson@ct.gov](mailto:joan.simpson@ct.gov) to set up a workshop or to obtain additional information.



## Professional Development Opportunities

### Improving Student Learning through Assessment: The Health Education Assessment Project

The Health Education Assessment Project (HEAP) is a national and state initiative focused on increasing the capacity of local school districts to improve the health literacy of students and address accountability in Comprehensive Health Education. HEAP uses the assessment of student work to guide program development, implementation, and improvement efforts in promoting healthy outcomes for children and youth. Discussion will also include the role of the formative and summative assessment and the impact on curriculum and instruction.

**Audience:** Nurses, Health Educators, Family Consumer Science Teachers, Classroom Teachers and anyone who has responsibility for teaching Comprehensive School Health Education in grades K-12.

**Dates:** January 26, 27 & February 23, 2010 (snow date: 1/28/10).

**Time:** 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Location:** Central Connecticut State University.

**Presenters:** Health Education Assessment Project Cadre of Trainers

**Facilitator:** Pat Miller, Program Facilitator for the Health Education Assessment Project Cadre of Trainers, Connecticut State Department of Education.

**CEUs:** 1.5 Course #: 09253362.

**Fee:** \$200.00. Includes materials and training valued at over \$300.00. (Connecticut Health Education Assessment Framework, Searchable Database CD of over 1,900 assessment items, the Connecticut Healthy and Balanced Living Curriculum Framework, and the Guidelines for the Coordinated Approach to School Health).

**Register online by 1/20/10 at [www.registereastconn.org](http://www.registereastconn.org).**

If you have questions regarding registration, or have difficulty using the online form, e-mail [djackson@eastconn.org](mailto:djackson@eastconn.org) or call 860-455-1561. In case of inclement weather, go to [www.eastconn.org](http://www.eastconn.org) or call 860-455-0420 or 860-455-0707 for cancellation information.

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...Keeping CT School Nurses  
Informed and Involved!



### Nursing Cadre Calendar of PD events

1. Topic: Asthma  
Facilitator: Michael Corjulo  
Date: 2/24/10 Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Location: Guilford School District
2. Topic: Self Injurious Behaviors  
Facilitators: Joan Cagginello and Kathy Scarinzi  
Date: 3/22/10 Time: 9 a.m.  
Location: North Branford School District
3. Topic: Food Allergies  
Facilitators: Christine Bartley and Susan Marchitto  
Date: 3/24/10 Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Location: Guilford School District
4. Topic: Understanding 504  
Facilitator: Pat Krin  
Date: 4/8/10 Time: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.  
Location: Watertown School District
5. Topic: Food Allergies  
Facilitator: Christine Bartley and Susan Marchitto  
Date: 4/8/10 Time: 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Location: Watertown School District
6. Topic: Self Injurious Behaviors  
Facilitators: Joan Cagginello and Kathy Scarinzi  
Date: 5/28/10 Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Location: Newington School District

The Nursing Cadre of Trainers is a select group of school nurse leaders from local school districts, regional educational service centers (RESC), local health departments, and state agencies. As trained facilitators, they are committed to providing quality professional development to promote student health and academic achievement.

These programs are sponsored by the Connecticut State Department of Education in collaboration with the Association of School Nurses of Connecticut, RESCs, State Education Resource Center, local school districts and local health departments.

This Cadre will provide current information through interactive, research-based workshops that promote best practices within the context of school health. The goal of this project is to offer professional development designed to increase skills and raise awareness about health and mental health services in schools. For questions or to schedule a workshop, please contact Stephanie G. Knutson at [Stephanie.Knutson@ct.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Knutson@ct.gov).

## Nondiscrimination Statement

*The State of Connecticut Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Inquiries regarding the Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Affirmative Action Administrator, State of Connecticut Department of Education, 25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT 06457-1543, 860-807-2071.*