



Stephanie G. Knutson, MSN, RN School Nurse Consultant

Special Points of Interest:

- Spring School Nurse Supervisor Conference - April 3, 2012



Indoor Air Testing Should Not Be the First Move

A message from Connecticut Department of Public Health Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program Environmental Health Section

With the recent tropical storm and the October surprise snowstorm, school buildings may be facing moisture and mold problems. The State Department of Public Health (DPH), recommends that indoor air testing, including mold testing, should usually not be the first move to address indoor environmental quality (IEQ) problems.

Why?

- There are no appropriate standards for indoor air quality in schools, office buildings, and residences.
- This lack of standards makes testing results hard to interpret and often not helpful.
- IEQ testing is expensive and rarely needed, so scarce resources should be concentrated on fixing the problems.

What actions should schools take?

These are the first steps:

- walk through the school to get an overall picture of damage or repairs that need to be made;
- prioritize repairs and desired completion dates; and
- decide what you can tackle yourself, and what will need outside contractors and investigate means for financial assistance (insurance claims, Connecticut State Department of Education funds, etc.)

The revised fact sheet titled, "***Indoor Air Testing Should Not Be the First Move,***" provides guidance on appropriate indoor air testing and is located on the DPH Web site at http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/environmental_health/eoha/pdf/ieq_testing_should_not_be_the_first_move_6-10.pdf. For additional information, please access the DPH School Environment Web page at www.ct.gov/dph/schools.

Association of School Nurses of Connecticut (ASNC) Membership

Access the ASNC's Web site to join or renew your membership at:
<http://www.ctschoolnurses.org/join-asnc.html>.

The Association of School Nurses of Connecticut
C/O Connecticut Nurses Association
377 Research Parkway, Suite 2D
Meriden, Connecticut 06450-7160
203-238-1207 Extension 27



2010-11 Connecticut's School Health Services Information Survey Results

Thank you for your efforts with the School Health Services Information Survey for the 2010-11 school year. We received a record breaking 88 percent of surveys back from Connecticut school districts! We recognize your hard work and the data you provided substantiates the important health and other services you provide to ensure that Connecticut's children and adolescents are healthy, learning and succeeding in life.

A copy of the report along with the 2004-10, *Summary Highlights Report* are available at the Connecticut State Department of Education's Health Promotion /School Nurse Web site at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2678&q=320768>.

Survey results include:

- the health care procedures most likely to be performed in the public school setting are nebulizer treatments, blood sugar testing, and insulin pump management;
- at least 80 percent of districts serving public schools perform nebulizer treatments, blood sugar testing, and insulin pump management;
- Connecticut districts have over 9000 students with documented dietary needs including nut, wheat, milk and shellfish allergies;
- districts regularly prescribe emergency medications as needed including glucagon, diastat and epinephrine;
- a wide variety of software is used by Connecticut districts to collect and record school health information. Almost 1 in 4 responding public districts and 3 in 5 responding private, non-profit districts reported having no software;
- a total of 1279 students were reported to have Lyme disease in participating schools;
- almost 90 percent of districts reported that 76 to 100 percent of students are returned to the classroom within one-half hour of receiving a nursing intervention; and
- Sixty percent of respondents identified injuries as the most common reason for 911 calls. "Other" was reported as the second most common reason for 911 calls followed by "anaphylaxis" and "seizure".

Thank you school nurses and school nurse supervisors!

School Nutrition Programs

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has recently updated the October 2011 version of *Accommodating Special Dietary Needs in School Nutrition Programs* to include some additional guidance based on questions from the November 2, 2011, workshop, *Accommodating Children with Special Dietary Needs*. The revised version (November 2011) is now online at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/deps/student/nutritioned/accommodatingspecialdiets.pdf>.

If you previously downloaded the October 2011 version, please discard and replace with the November 2011 document. The medical statements dated September 2011 (*Medical Statement for Children with Disabilities* and *Medical Statement for Children without Disabilities*) have not changed.

We would also like you to know that we have a new CSDE Special Diets Web site now online at <http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=333730>. In addition to the CSDE's guide and medical statements, this site provides information on the United States Department of Agriculture requirements for special diets, federal regulations, guidance and resources.



Professional Development Opportunities



Save the date!

Spring 2012 School Nurse Supervisor Conference

Date: Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Location: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, Connecticut

Registration: Information will be available in the January 2012, *School Nurse Bulletin!*

Nursing Assessment, IHCPs and IEPs: An Interactive Online Course for School Nurses

Audience: School Nurses

Activity Code: 12-23-096

CEUs: 3.0

Availability: Beginning January 31, 2012

Register by: January 17, 2012

Registration: Click on the "Professional Development" tab at the State Education Resource Center's (SERC) Web site at www.ctserc.org.

Contact: Linda Adorno, SERC Project Assistant, at 860-632-1485, extension 241, or adorno@ctserc.org.

School nurses must have specialized skills in collecting, analyzing, and synthesizing health data and coordinating and monitoring medical interventions for students with special education exceptionalities and their various health needs. This 14-week online course, which begins on January 31, 2012, and ends on May 4, 2012, will introduce school nurses to a framework and tools for this work. Participants will select a case study of a student from their school, assess the student's health status, and summarize the information into an Individualized Health Care Plan (IHCP) and an individualized education program (IEP).

The course involves self-guided learning accessed through ten online modules. Participants will be required to complete application of learning assignments related to the salient content of the modules by accomplishing related tasks, engaging in personal reflection, and participating in online discussions with the course facilitators and other school nurses.

Participants will convene once as a small group on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at SERC to share their case study IHCP and receive feedback from the facilitators.

NOTE:

- school nurses must have a minimum of two years of experience in schools to register for this course; and
- successful completion of this course requires a commitment of dedicated learning time. As appropriate, discuss this requirement with a supervisor in your school or district and arrange for substitute coverage or other considerations as needed.



Professional Development Opportunities, Cont'd



Annual Health Education and Physical Education Coordinators' Meeting

The Connecticut State Department of Education is pleased to announce the Third Annual Meeting of Coordinators of Health and Physical Education. Join health education and physical education coordinators from across the state to develop and share strategies that promote student health and wellness and its direct connection to academic achievement.

Participants will receive up-to-date information about federal, state and regional initiatives, resources and success stories that will have a positive impact on their work.

Location: Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT

Date: January 31, 2012

Registration: Visit Eastconn's Web site at <http://www.registereastconn.org/>.

HIV Prevention Education Webinar Series

The Connecticut State Department of Education, in partnership with Answer at Rutgers University, presents a Webinar Series on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Prevention Education.

Webinar schedule:

January 26, 2012 - *Using Interactive Teaching Methods to Move Beyond "Just the Facts" for Effective HIV Prevention;*

February 2, 2012 - *Teaching HIV Prevention in a Multi-Cultural Classroom;* and

February 7, 2012 - *Addressing Concerns about Teaching HIV Prevention in School: How to Build Partnerships within Communities.*

Registration deadline: January 10, 2012

Registration information: Visit Eastconn's Web site at <http://www.registereastconn.org/>.



STEPHANIE G. KNUTSON, MSN, RN
SCHOOL NURSE CONSULTANT

Connecticut State Department of Education
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services
and Adult Education
25 Industrial Park Road, Middletown, CT

Phone: 860-807-2108

E-mail: stephanie.knutson@ct.gov

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