



BREATHING SPACE



Respiratory Disease Newsletter

Minnesota Department of Health
Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division
Chronic Disease & Environmental Epidemiology Section

Volume 9, Number 1

March 2011

SAVE THE DATE!

Asthma Alliance Summit
Thursday, May 12, 2011
MDH Snelling Office Park
1645 Energy Park Dr.
St. Paul, MN 55108
8 a.m.—Noon

Optimal Asthma Care Measure—
Environmental Triggers of Asthma—
HealthCare Homes—Quality Improvement—
iAAP—Schools and Asthma—Patient
Empowerment—More!

At this statewide forum you can share your accomplishments, exchange ideas, learn about evidence-based practices and get updated on *A Strategic Plan for Addressing Asthma in Minnesota*. Interested in being part of these efforts? Come and find out how we can partner together!

For additional information contact Erica Fishman, MDH Asthma Program at 651-201-5899 or erica.fishman@state.mn.us, or register at <http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/events.html>

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May is World Asthma Awareness Month! World Asthma Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2011

World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA) to improve asthma awareness and care around the world. The World Asthma Day 2011 theme is "You Can Control Your Asthma". The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) encourages all asthma stakeholders to raise awareness about asthma during the month of May.



The US EPA has created an Event Planning Kit for World Asthma Month which includes ideas on:

- Holding an asthma awareness event at a school, local hospital, clinic, or library;
- Distributing asthma materials (flyers, newsletters, etc.) and educating parents about environmental asthma triggers
- Partnering with local organizations to pool resources and increase publicity for your event;
- Collaborating with local leaders/celebrities to boost awareness for your campaigns;
- Garnering media attention for your event; and
- Much more!

U.S. EPA's Event Planning Kit can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awm/index.html>.

Sign up to receive GINA's email newsletter with tips and advice about World Asthma Day activity planning and early access to important resources. <http://www.ginasthma.com/Newsletter.asp?>

Reducing Environmental Triggers of Asthma in the Home Online Training Available

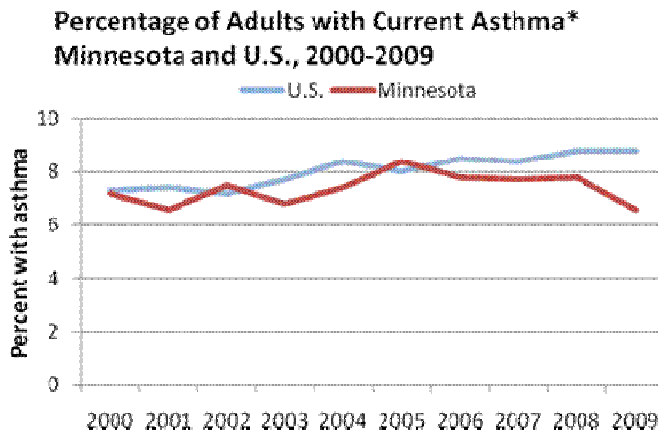


RETA HOME (Reducing Environmental Triggers of Asthma in the Home) is a free 30-minute online training designed specifically for Public Health Nurses (PHNs) and Certified Asthma Educators (AE-Cs). This training will also be helpful for clinic staff and anyone else who wants to learn more or provide additional information on environmental triggers of asthma found in homes.

(cont. on pg 3)

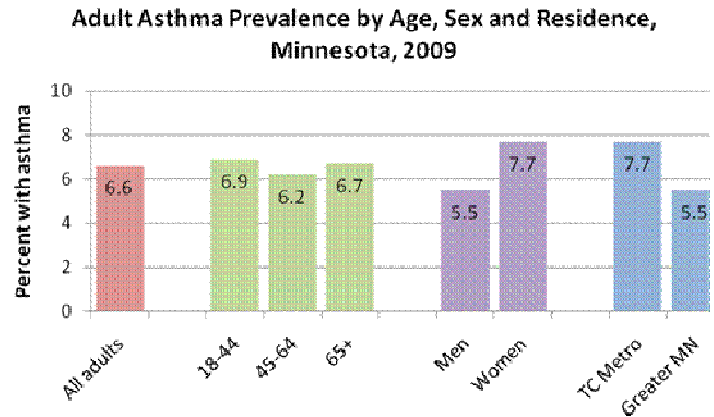
Adults and Asthma in Minnesota

Data from the 2009 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, an annual telephone survey conducted in every state and coordinated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), show a decline in the percentage of Minnesota adults aged 18 and older who have asthma. In 2009, 6.6% of Minnesota adults reported that they had asthma, down from 7.8% in 2008. National data show a steady increasing trend while Minnesota data show a rise and fall through the 2000's.



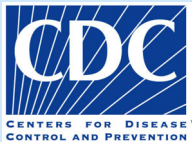
*Responded "Yes" to "Has a doctor or nurse ever told you that you had asthma?" and "Do you still have asthma?" Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

As shown in the graph below, the percentage of adults with asthma does not differ dramatically by age group. Women are more likely than men and residents of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area are more likely than residents of Greater Minnesota to report having asthma.



New CDC Reports

Asthma prevalence, health care use, and mortality: United States, 2005-2009



This report presents recent data on asthma prevalence and health care use. In 2009, current asthma prevalence was 8.2% of the U.S. population (24.6 million people); within population sub-groups it was higher among females, children, persons of non-Hispanic black and Puerto Rican race or ethnicity, persons with family income below the poverty level, and those residing in the Northeast and Midwest regions. In 2008, persons with asthma missed 10.5 million school days and 14.2 million work days due to their asthma. In 2007, there were 1.75 million asthma-related emergency department visits and 456,000 asthma hospitalizations. Asthma emergency visit and hospitalization rates were higher among females than males, among children than adults, and among black than white persons. Despite the high burden from adverse impacts, use of some asthma management strategies based on clinical guidelines for the treatment of asthma remained below the targets set by the Healthy People 2010 initiative. From: National Health Statistics Report Number 32 n January 12, 2011 accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr032.pdf>.

Health disparities and inequalities report, United States 2011

This report consolidates national data on disparities in mortality, morbidity, behavioral risk factors, health care access, preventive health services, and social determinants of critical health problems in the United States. The report focuses on disparities in selected health determinants and outcomes by sex, race and ethnicity, education, income, disability status, and geography. Asthma, housing and air quality data are included in the report. From: Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Supplement/Vol. 60 January 14, 2011 accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/other/su6001.pdf>.

Who's New!

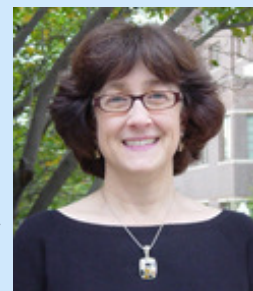


MDH Commissioner Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton appointed Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH, to serve as Minnesota Commissioner of Health in Jan. 2011. Prior to being appointed commissioner, Dr. Ehlinger served as director and chief health officer for Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota from 1995 - 2011. He has also served as an adjunct professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the U of M School of Public Health and from 1980 to 1995, he served as director of Personal Health Services for the Minneapolis Health Department.

MDH Assistant Commissioner Jeanne Ayers

Jeanne F. Ayers was appointed in January 2011 to serve as Assistant Commissioner for the MDH's Community and Family Health Promotion Bureau (which includes the Asthma Program). Prior to her appointment, Ayers served as Director of Nursing and Preventive Services at the U of M Boynton Health Service and prior to that as Program Director of Occupational Health at Boynton. She has also directed the Healthy Heartland Initiative, sponsored by ISAIAH, a faith-based organization dedicated to social, racial and economic justice. She was U of M founding Executive Director of the Center for Public Health Education and Outreach at the School of Public Health. Her community activities include working with community groups and broad-based community organizers to deepen the public understanding of the social determinants of health and their relationship to race, place and class.



(cont. from pg 1)

Reducing Environmental Triggers of Asthma in the Home Online Training Available

Although this program was developed in Minnesota, its information can be used anywhere in the country. This online training program is intended to help build capacity by being available to individuals who may not have access to experienced home assessment experts in person. Many remote areas of Minnesota do not have access to this expertise, and this online training should fill the gap here and elsewhere. This training format is convenient, affordable, and can be updated as information and needs change.

The online training draws from the experiences of a respiratory therapist/AE-C who has been empowering families to make changes and reduce exposure to environmental triggers of asthma for over 20 years. This training program consists of a slide show and video clips that will instruct the learner about the benefits of performing home assessments. The participant learns about asthma triggers found in the home and simple, low cost methods and techniques to reduce irritants and allergens, especially in the bedroom or sleeping area of the person with asthma. The learner takes a tour of a home to help identify areas where triggers of asthma may be present.

Finally, information is provided on where the learner can obtain additional resources on the environmental health issues presented in the program, as well as resources that address the medical management of asthma. Upon completing the online training, the learner will receive a certificate of completion.

The online training will be available in April. You can sign up to be notified when this training becomes available, or access this training once it is available at www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/. For more information, please contact Kathleen Norlien at (651) 201-4613 or Kathleen.Norlien@state.mn.us.

The online training was developed by the MDH and was made possible through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.





**NIOSH Approved
Spirometry Training
April 22-12, 2011
U of M School of
Public Health
2221 University Ave. SE
Minneapolis, MN**

This NIOSH approved program will provide instruction in spirometry through lectures, workshops, and testing.

This workshop includes American Thoracic Society (ATS) standards for pulmonary function testing and the current NIOSH standards. Each participant will have ample opportunity to practice pulmonary function testing utilizing a variety of spirometry equipment with one-on-one instruction from the faculty. Individuals who will find this program valuable include: nurses, physicians, industrial hygienists, technicians and Medical Assistants, and others responsible for performing accurate pulmonary function testing.

For more information link to <http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=9702>

Nurses - This activity has been designed to meet the Minnesota Board of Nursing continuing education requirements for 19.2 (50 Minute) contact hours. The registration fee of \$450.00 includes refreshments, lunch, course materials and CEU certificate for continuing education hours. Register online at http://ustar.ahc.umn.edu/cpheo/register/register_event.cfm?event_id=5248

Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution 0.083%, 3 mL Unit Dose Vials: Recall - Mislabeled Unit Dose Vials

Issue: The Ritedose Corporation is conducting a voluntary recall of 0.083% Albuterol Sulfate Inhalation Solution, 3 mL in 25, 30, and 60 unit dose vials. This product is being recalled because the 2.5 mg/3 mL single use vials are embossed with the wrong concentration of 0.5 mg/ 3 mL and therefore, represents a potential significant health hazard. Only the unit dose vials are incorrectly embossed as containing 0.5 mg/3 mL. The correct concentration of 2.5 mg/3 mL is labeled on the primary foil overwrap pouches and shelf cartons. Administration of this defective product could result in a range of potential health effects that spans from temporary and medically reversible to life threatening and death.

There is significant concern that health professionals who read the incorrect embossed concentration may upwardly adjust the volume of product used resulting in an administered amount that is 5 times the recommended dose. In the hospital setting, the vials are often not accompanied by the rest of the packaging, making it more likely that such a dosing error could occur. Significant overdosing of a patient could lead to signs and symptoms of albuterol toxicity, which includes tremors, dizziness, nervousness, headache, seizures, angina, high blood pressure, low po-

tassium levels, and rapid heart rates up to 200 beats/minute.

Background: This product is a prescription inhalation solution, administered via nebulization, for the treatment and maintenance of acute asthma exacerbations and exercise induced asthma in children and adults. The product is packaged as a single use unit dose vials in a protective foil overwrap packaged in a shelf carton. The following lot numbers manufactured by The Ritedose Corporation under NDC: 0591-3797-83, 0591-3797-30, and 0591-3797-60 are included in the recall: 0N81, 0N82, 0N83, 0N84, 0NE7, 0NE8, 0NE9, 0NF0, 0P12, 0P13, 0P46, 0P47, 0PF0, and 0S15. No other Albuterol formulations or products are included in this recall. This product was distributed nationwide and Puerto Rico.

Recommendation: Consumers should immediately return the affected product to the place it was obtained (i.e. doctor's office, pharmacy, etc.). Wholesalers and retailers should return the product to the address stated in the firm Press Release. More information can be found at <http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/SafetyInformation/SafetyAlertsforHumanMedical-Products/ucm238624.htm>.

NEW Online Training Courses

Managing Asthma in the School Environment Online Course

The National Education Association (NEA), the NEA Health Information Network (NEA HIN) and the Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc. (MCAN) launched a free online training program that will give teachers, coaches, educational support professionals, bus drivers, food service workers, and other school staff information on how to help students manage their asthma at school.

The 2-hour course, "Managing Asthma in the School Environment" presents an overview of asthma including its causes, signs and symptoms; tips for controlling and treating asthma; and strategies for creating asthma-friendly schools. Additionally, it provides suggested changes that can be made to reduce triggers in school environments, such as removing upholstered furniture and ensuring good indoor environmental quality. Teachers and education support professionals (ESPs) can earn certificate hours and other professional development credit. The training program can be accessed at www.neacademy.org.

Environmental Public Health Tracking 101

A new CDC online course, Environmental Public Health Tracking 101, provides an overview of the major components of environmental public health tracking. The course is divided into 12 modules within three sections. Topics include how to use the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (<http://ephtracking.cdc.gov>), surveillance and epidemiology, types of tracking data, and geographic information systems.

The online course is available at <http://www.nehacert.org>. The course can be accessed by entering "Tracking 101" in the search box. Continuing education credit is available at no charge for nurses, health educators, and other health professionals.

For MN Environmental Public Health Tracking: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/tracking/index.html>.

Asthma in Primary Care Practice

This step-by-step online tutorial is intended to assist clinicians in applying the key concepts of the updated recommendations of the National Asthma Education Program (NAEPP), Expert Panel Report -3 (EPR-3) into their practice. The problem-based learning format of this activity will help clinicians:

- Apply key changes of the NAEPP, EPR-3.
- Incorporate communication strategies to promote self management.
- Integrate trigger reduction recommendations into clinical practice.

Adopt specific high leverage changes for greatest need and opportunity. This activity has been reviewed and is acceptable for up to 3.0 Prescribed Credits by the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Full program information is available at <http://jeny.ipro.org/files/Asthma/>.

Other Resources

National Asthma Control Initiative Action Guide



Who can make the difference between a life controlled by asthma, and a life where asthma is under control? The new National Asthma Control Initiative (NACI) 12-page booklet provides anyone with an interest in asthma with an action guide built around the NACI's 6 priority action messages that will enable patients to manage their care, clinicians to treat their asthma patients effectively, and others to contribute to the effort to better manage asthma. The guide can be accessed at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/prof/lung/asthma/naci-action-guide.htm>.

Using Evaluation to Reduce the Burden of Asthma: a Web-based introduction to CDC's Framework for Program Evaluation

The National Asthma Control Program, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, has created a four-part Webinar series on program evaluation basics. Nationally recognized experts present a general introduction to program evaluation; note challenges in conducting useful evaluations as well as methods for overcoming those challenges; and introduce the six steps of the CDC Framework for Program Evaluation using examples that are relevant to state partners of the National Asthma Control Program. At the website you will also find Power-Point slides along with transcripts http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/program_eval/evaluation_webinar.htm.

Tobacco-Smoke Exposure in Children Who Live in Multiunit Housing

Children who lived in apartment buildings with smokers had higher levels of a tobacco byproduct in their blood than children from smoke-free single-family homes, according to a new study that suggests multi-unit housing is a significant source of second-hand smoke.

This is the first study to show increased tobacco exposure in the blood of children who live in multi-unit housing, even if no one smokes in their apartment, according to Dr. Jonathan Winickoff of Mass General Hospital for Children, senior author of the article published online in the journal *Pediatrics*.

The study concluded, "Most children without known secondhand tobacco-smoke exposure inside the home still showed evidence of tobacco-smoke exposure. Children in apartments had higher mean cotinine levels than children in detached houses. Potential causes for this result could be seepage through walls or shared ventilation systems. Smoking bans in multiunit housing may reduce children's exposure to tobacco smoke."

Published online December 13, 2010
PEDIATRICS Vol. 127 No. 1 January 2011, pp. 85-92
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/127/1/85>

Does the Smoke Ever Really Clear? Thirdhand Smoke Exposure

You may never have heard of third-hand smoke, or THS, but chances are you've smelled it. THS is, in the words of *The New York Times*, "the invisible yet toxic brew of gases and particles clinging to smokers' hair and clothing, not to mention cushions and carpeting, that lingers long after secondhand smoke [SHS] has cleared from a room." Recent research exploring potential dangers of THS has received a flurry of coverage in the international media and the scientific press. And in the United States, court cases are beginning to appear in which plaintiffs are citing these alleged dangers, despite a lack of human health studies on the long-term health effects of THS exposure. The full article can be accessed at Environmental Health Perspectives, 01 February 2011, <http://ehp03.niehs.nih.gov/article/info:doi/10.1289/ehp.119-a70>.

★ **Children's World Asthma Day Conference** ★
★ **World Asthma Awareness and Management Seminar** ★
★ May 3, 2011 ★
★ 8:30 AM-1:30 PM ★
★ Cost \$50 - Contact hours available ★
★ John Nasseff Heart and Lung Building, St. Paul, MN ★
★ Conference details and register online: ★
★ www.childrensmn.org/conferences ★
★*****

Tobacco-free signs available for school grounds, parks, and apartment common areas

The Association for Nonsmokers--Minnesota has the following signs available for Minnesota communities:

- Tobacco-free park property signs (12" x 18" metal) *a copy of the community's tobacco-free policy is required*
 - ◇ Download order form at http://www.tobaccofreeparks.org/documents/TF_Sign_Order_Form.pdf
- Tobacco-free school grounds signs for school athletic fields and playgrounds (12" x 18" metal) *a copy of the community's tobacco-free policy is required*
 - ◇ Download order form at http://www.tobaccofreeparks.org/documents/School_Sign_Order_Form_2011.pdf
- Smoke-free indoor common area signs for apartment buildings (4" x 9" plastic or 4" x 9" window cling) *any rental apartment building in MN is eligible for these signs because state law requires all indoor common areas of apartment buildings to be smoke free*
 - ◇ Download order form at http://www.mnsmokefreehousing.org/documents/Common_area_sign_order_form.pdf

All signs and shipping are FREE. Quantity limits may apply. Available while supply lasts. Questions about these materials can be directed to Brittany McFadden, (651) 646-3005 or bhm@ansrmn.org.



Food Allergies and Asthma



www.FoodInsight.org

Background on Food Allergies and Asthma

While allergy to pollen or other environmental sources typically causes a lot of discomfort during spring, summer, and fall, food allergy is one condition that knows no season. According to recent studies, approximately 12 million Americans—about four percent of adults and six to eight percent of children under the age of three—have a true food allergy.

People tend to diagnose themselves, believing they have allergic reactions to certain foods or food ingredients. Unfortunately, self-diagnosis of food allergy often leads to unnecessary food restrictions, nutrient deficiencies, and misdiagnosis of potential life-threatening medical conditions other than food allergy. Therefore, experts urge people to see a board-certified allergist for proper diagnosis.

How Many Americans are Affected by Food-Triggered Asthma?

Food-triggered asthma is rare, occurring only among six to eight percent of children with asthma and less than two percent of adults with asthma.

Can Foods Trigger Asthma?

Only a few. For years it has been suspected that foods or food ingredients may cause or exacerbate symptoms in those with asthma. After many years of scientific and clinical investigation, there are very few confirmed food triggers of asthma. Sulfites and sulfating agents in foods (found in dried fruits, prepared potatoes, wine, bottled lemon or lime juice, and shrimp), and diagnosed food allergens (such as milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish, and shellfish) have been found to trigger asthma. Many food ingredients such as food dyes and colors, food preservatives like BHA and BHT, monosodium glutamate, aspartame, and nitrite, have not been conclusively linked to asthma.

To read the entire "Food Allergies & Asthma" article, go to the [FoodInsight.org](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Background+on+Food+Allergies+and+Asthma#commentAnchor) website at [http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Background on Food Allergies and Asthma#commentAnchor](http://www.foodinsight.org/Resources/Detail.aspx?topic=Background+on+Food+Allergies+and+Asthma#commentAnchor)

The Web site, www.FoodInsight.org, serves as a nutrition and food safety resource for consumers, health professionals, journalists, educators, government officials, and students. They provide important and timely resources on a variety of topics such as weight management, diet (food) and health, food safety, food production, international food issues, and communications.

Asthma Awareness— Bois Forte Reservation

Kevin Koski, Environmental Health Specialist for Bois Forte Environmental Services has been very busy participating in asthma awareness activities. He hopes that the increased awareness will empower individuals to better control their asthma through medical and environmental interventions. Kevin is a champion for asthma awareness and education in his community.

Kevin has provided booths with educational materials on asthma and indoor air quality at Bois Forte conferences on Diabetes, Smoking Cessation, Teen Health, and the Bois Forte State of the Band Day. He has also taken part in health and wellness fairs including Bois Forte Employee Wellness Day, Women's Wellness Fair, and Fond du Lac Health Fair. At the Bois Forte Vermilion Wellness and the Bois Forte New Lives Meetings for families with babies, Kevin distributed educational materials, and also presented information on the asthma/healthy homes demonstration projects that he has been leading. In addition, Kevin has authored articles for the Bois Forte News describing his asthma projects and to get the word out about these projects. Not only does he work on asthma trigger awareness and interventions in homes, but he also was involved in the Nett Lake School Walkthrough with MDH Asthma Program. This program utilized the experience of an environmental scientist and school maintenance supervisor looking for asthma triggers present in the school building. A report of this walkthrough was prepared for the school with recommendations which led to the removal of all plug-in and automatic air fresheners from the school.

Hats off to Kevin and the important work he continues to do at Bois Forte and other Northern Minnesota locations!



ALAMN News

January MAC Quarterly Meeting Certified Asthma Educators (AE-C)



The January 20, 2011, meeting of the Minnesota Asthma Coalition (MAC) consisted of a peer discussion around the "Role of the Certified Asthma Educator in Today's Health Care System." Individuals representing a variety of health care disciplines shared their past experi-

ences and future visions. Participating AE-C's were:

- Molly Ekstrand, RPh, AE-C, Fairview Pharmacy Services
- Cathie Miller, DNP, St. Mary's Duluth Clinic
- Sarah Wood, RN, MS, NP-C, Allergy & Asthma Specialists
- Alison Fradenburgh, LPN, AE-C, River's Edge Clinic, St. Peter
- Susan Ross, RN AE-C, Minnesota Department of Health
- Patricia Turner, RT, Riverwood Healthcare Center, Aitkin
- Tara Kaup, RN, LSN, AE-C, St. Paul Public Schools
- Colleen Dobie, NP, AE-C, Allina
- Anne Robinson, RN, AE-C, Hennepin County Medical Center
- Teresa Zustiak, RN, AE-C, Children's Hospitals and Clinics

Discussions continued about the expanding roles of the Certified Asthma Educator and resources needed to accomplish them.

8th Annual Joint School Nurse Training

ALAMN and Partners for Asthma Action are delighted to host the 8th Annual Joint School Nurse Training on Tuesday March 29, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. Dr. Richard Sveum will be presenting "Anatomy of An Asthma Death" lecture and discussion for Licensed School Nurses. At this time, the in-person reservation list is full. Other school nurses statewide and other health care professionals are welcome to join via webinar. If you are interested in joining via webinar, please contact Jill Heins at jill.heins@lungmn.org.

Spirometry Webinar Series

The American Lung Association in Minnesota is hosting a Spirometry Webinar Series. The first took place on World Spirometry Day on October 14, 2010, and dis-

cussed the basics of Spirometry for providers. The second was held in February 11, 2011 on differential diagnosis between asthma and COPD. Both archived webinars are available at no charge: <http://www.lungusa.org/associations/states/minnesota/events-programs/mn-copd-coalition/copd-trainings/spirometry-trainings.html>

Asthma 101 Presentation

ALAMN conducts over 80 Asthma 101 presentations throughout Minnesota each year helping to educate children and adults suffering from asthma, parents, childcare providers and schools about Asthma. These presentations are conducted by trained certified asthma educators and include information on symptoms, triggers, treatment, and asthma action plans. If you are interested in hosting a presentation at your daycare, school, work site, or community center please contact Cynthia Isaacson at

Cynthia.isaacson@lungmn.org or 651-268-7587.

Camp SuperKids—camp for kids with asthma



Camp SuperKids is an educational and fun summer camp where children with moderate to severe asthma learn to better manage and control their disease while participating in exciting camp activities. Highly skilled medical staff provides 24-hour medical supervision and instruction during camp. Camp SuperKids is in its 45th summer and is a project of the American Lung Association in Minnesota. Camp this year will be from Sunday, June 26 – Friday, July 1, at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi in Loretto, MN and is open to ages 7-13. For more information please visit

<http://www.lungusa.org/associations/states/minnesota/events-programs/asthma-camp-1.html> or contact Cynthia Isaacson at 651-268-7587 or Cynthia.isaacson@lungmn.org.

ALA is looking for Camp Superkids Medical Staff. They need physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists who can volunteer from 12 hours up to the full week of camp. Sunday June 26 – Friday July 1, 2011. Volunteers will receive up to 20 CEUs and advanced asthma training. Contact: Cynthia.isaacson@lungmn.org.



PACE Webinar

Save the Date

April 27, 2011: Noon—1 p.m. CST

- What:** Physician Asthma Care Education (PACE) Webinar
- Why:** To learn how PACE can help you improve therapeutic techniques, master asthma counseling reimbursement, and interact better with your patients, without adding time to your busy schedule.
- Who:** For primary care providers and other who care for patients who have asthma.
- When:** Wednesday, April 27, 2011
- Where:** [Register online](#) and learn more about the PACE webinar

**Register Today for FREE Webinar on
Implementing Childhood Asthma
Management Programs in the Community
April 13, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. EST**

When it comes to reducing the enormous cost, health and personal burdens of childhood asthma, just delivering the right medical care is not always enough - and even that's a challenge. The Merck Childhood Asthma Network, Inc. (MCAN) and its partners have spent years implementing evidence-based asthma management programs in local communities across the country. Through trial, error and success, the programs have worked to break down many barriers that make improving childhood asthma outcomes so challenging. Join this important webinar to learn successful strategies for bringing better asthma care and management to the millions of children and families affected by asthma. The webinar - hosted in partnership with *ADVANCE for Respiratory Care & Sleep Medicine* - will take a close look at opportunities and challenges from community-based Merck Childhood Asthma Network programs. <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/325780721>

**Influenza-related Deaths in
Minnesota, 2010-11**

As of March 28, 2011, 26 influenza-related deaths have been reported in Minnesota for the 2010-2011 influenza season. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the majority of cases (19/26, 73%) have been in those 65 years of age and older with 15/19 (79%) occurring in those 80 years of age or older. Deaths in the elderly have all been related to influenza A (H3) or influenza A (type unknown). Most deaths in those less than 65 years of age are related to influenza B or influenza A (2009 H1N1). One case occurred in a child who was co-infected with influenza B and MRSA and had a necrotizing pneumonia.

In contrast, during the 2009-2010 season when the A (2009 H1N1) pandemic strain dominated, the majority of deaths were in those 18-64 years of age (46/67, 67%). During the 2009 H1N1 pandemic there were 8 pediatric deaths identified. Two pediatric deaths have been identified to date for the 2010-2011 season.



ATTENTION: Certified Asthma Educators

If you are or have been a Certified Asthma Educator, please go online to complete the survey at <https://survey.vovici.com/se.ashx?s=56206EE32735F52A>



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BREATHING SPACE

For more information, or to request this material in another format call the Minnesota Asthma Program at:

651-201-5909

MN Relay Service TDD/TTY

651-201-5797.

To receive this newsletter electronically, go to:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/cdee/asthma/Newsletter.html>.

Link to -Subscribe to Breathing Space.

BREATHING SPACE, a quarterly respiratory disease newsletter, is produced by the Minnesota Department of Health Asthma Program. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide health professionals, school nurses, and community members with current research, information, and resources on respiratory disease.

This newsletter is supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement #1U59EH000498-01 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the CDC.

Questions about lung health?

Call 1-800-548-8252

American Lung Association Call Center

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Toll Free Number: 1-877-925-4189

Asthma Web Site: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/asthma/>

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