



HEALTHY MOTHERS, HEALTHY BABIES
Coalition of Georgia

HMHB Resource Watch

Improving the health status of Georgia's families.

Public Health News **National Firework Safety Month**

Vol. 10, Issue 11

June 17, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ralph Apel, NCFS President, at getinfo@fireworksafety.com

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www.fireworksafety.com

KNOW YOUR FIREWORKS!: Consumers Warned of Illegal Explosives and Urged to Follow Consumer Fireworks Safety Tips

Everyone enjoys fireworks, particularly in the festive Fourth of July season. But some devices can be dangerous. The National Council on Fireworks Safety recommends that you only buy consumer fireworks from a licensed store or stand. Never buy firework devices from an individual's house, or out of someone's car. Such fireworks are likely to be illegal explosives that can seriously injure you.

Consumer fireworks regulated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission are packaged in bright colors and have safety warnings on the packaging. The packaging sets forth the country of origin, which is normally China. Typical consumer fireworks include fountains, cones, sparklers, fire crackers, bottle rockets, roman candles, ground spinners and multi-shot products.

Illegal explosives are often unpackaged and are wrapped with plain brown paper. They are very unlikely to have any safety warnings, or place of manufacture. Many of them are hand made in illicit factories and other unsafe environments. They may go by names such as M80, Quarter Stick or Cherry Bomb. If someone approaches you to sell one of these illegal explosives, politely decline and then call your local police department.

Consumer fireworks, if used in accordance with their instructions, are very safe. Injuries from consumer fireworks have shown a dramatic decrease over the past twenty years, despite an astonishing increase in usage by consumers. Some form of consumer fireworks are now allowed in 45 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.

The National Council urges consumers to follow these other important safety tips:

- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.

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Public Health News **Firework Safety cont.**

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- Never give fireworks to young children and always wear safety glasses.
- Always have a bucket of water, or water hose, nearby.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix!

“Many times consumers don’t prepare for the evening’s fireworks display” says Ralph Apel, President of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. “The designated shooter should prepare a shooting area, assess how many people will be watching the display and lay out a spectator area that is far enough away from the shooting site. The shooter should carefully read the label of each firework and understand exactly what it will do. Preplanning makes for a safe and fun backyard fireworks display.”

The National Council has a new safety poster aimed at helping consumers distinguish between legal consumer fireworks and illegal explosives. We encourage consumers to look for these posters at participating consumer firework retailers.

For more details, please visit our website www.fireworksafety.com.



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Public Health News Swine Flu Update

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A Pandemic Is Declared

On June 11, 2009, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to [Phase 6](#) in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway.

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread. The WHO designation of a pandemic alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of world.

WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus. It's uncertain at this time how serious or severe this novel H1N1 pandemic will be in terms of how many people infected will develop serious complications or die from novel H1N1 infection. Experience with this virus so far is limited and influenza is unpredictable. However, because novel H1N1 is a new virus, many people may have little or no immunity against it, and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result. In addition, currently there is no vaccine to protect against novel H1N1 virus.

In the United States, most people who have become ill with the newly declared pandemic virus have recovered without requiring medical treatment, however, CDC anticipates that there will be more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with this pandemic in the coming days and weeks. In addition, this virus could cause significant illness with associated hospitalizations and deaths in the fall and winter during the U.S. influenza season.

CDC Response

CDC continues to take aggressive action to respond to the outbreak. CDC's response goals are to reduce the spread and severity of illness, and to provide information to help health care providers, public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this new public health threat.

CDC is issuing updated [interim guidance](#) in response to the rapidly evolving situation.

Public Guidance

CDC has provided guidance for the public on [what to do if they become sick with flu-like symptoms](#), including infection with novel H1N1. CDC also has issued instructions on [taking care of a sick person at home](#) and the use of [facemasks and respirators to reduce novel influenza A \(H1n1\) transmission](#). Everyone should take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs, including frequent hand washing and people who are sick should stay home and avoid contact with others in order to limit further spread of the disease.

Novel H1N1 Flu Situation Update. (2009). Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved on June 17, 2009 from <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>.



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HMHB in the Community

Smyrna Government and Community Center - Smyrna, GA	June 20, 2009 Passionate about Pink Health and Wellness Expo 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Loudermilk Center - Atlanta, GA	June 23, 2009 Forum on Using Quality Data to Improve Children's Health Outcomes 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Elizabeth Baptist Church - Atlanta, GA	July 25, 2009 2009 Health and Wellness Fair 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
The Classic Center - Athens, GA	August 1, 2009 The 12 Annual Athens Area Maternity and Baby Fair 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
TBD - Albany, GA	August 1, 2009 1st Annual Albany Health Fair 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Quality Plaza - Atlanta, GA	August 8, 2009 Joseph E Boone Foundation Health Fair 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Albany Satellite Office Opening !!

In May, 2009 a Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies satellite office opened in Albany, GA. On July 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Dougherty County Health Department, a reception will be held to celebrate this great success. The purpose of opening the satellite office is to increase HMHB's services in the southeast Georgia area. Following this reception, on August 1, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. HMHB will host it's first Annual Health Fair in Albany, GA. More information concerning these events will be provided. Please see www.hmhbga.org for frequent updates.

News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— June 15, 2009

This Week:

- 1) CDC Report on Alcohol Consumption During Pregnancy
- 2) Conference to Address Pediatric Care in Hospitals
- 3) Booster Seat Safety
- 4) New Toll-Free Number from NIDCR
- 5) Breastfeeding Promotion Act in Congress

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) CDC REPORT ON ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION DURING PREGNANCY

A recent study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that the number of women who drink alcohol while pregnant is not decreasing. Published in the May 22nd edition of CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), the study, "Alcohol Use Among Women of Childbearing Age, United States, 1991-2005" found that approximately one in eight women drank alcohol while pregnant. Exposure to alcohol is a known cause of birth defects, and there have been repeated warnings from surgeons general about the dangers of drinking alcohol during pregnancy. The study found that pregnant women most likely to report any alcohol use were 35-44 years of age (17.7%), college graduates (14.4%), employed (13.7%), and unmarried (13.4%). The study did not examine the reasons why women are still drinking while pregnant. Access the study online at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5819a4.htm>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

2) CONFERENCE TO ADDRESS PEDIATRIC CARE IN HOSPITALS

An upcoming conference will focus on ways that hospitals can create a safe environment to provide quality pediatric health care and help pediatric patients and their families feel well cared for and safe. Sponsored by the Joint Commission, the Pediatric Safety Conference: Safe Care, Quality Care, We Care, will be held on July 22-23, 2009 and will feature leading minds in pediatrics, infection control and hospital quality and performance improvement. The conference will include: assessment tools for use in a comprehensive review of pediatric services provided in emergency and inpatient setting; pediatric review tools and checklists to improve patient safety; emergency preparedness issues facing the pediatric population and more. To register for this program, please call (877) 223-6866. For more information, go to <http://www.jcrinc.com/ProductDetails1514.aspx>.

3) BOOSTER SEAT SAFETY

The Safe Kids USA Web site includes information about appropriate use of booster seats, the forward-facing seats without harnesses that help position the adult seat belt correctly over a child's body. Booster seats protect children who have outgrown their car seat but are too small for a seat belt alone. Booster Seats 101 includes information about which children should be in booster seats, the types of booster seats available and how to get a proper fit. Children should remain in a booster seat until the seat belt fits, which is typically when they are about 4 foot 9 inches tall and 80 to 100 pounds. To access the Safe Kids USA Web site, go to <http://www.safekids.org/stages/>.

4) NEW TOLL-FREE NUMBER FROM NIDCR

The National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse, a service of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR) has launched 1-866-232-4528, a new toll-free number to make it easier to obtain information about oral health. Consumers can call the new number for information on a range of oral health topics, including periodontal disease, children's oral health, finding low-cost dental care, special needs and oral health, and more. English and Spanish-speaking information specialists are available to answer inquiries from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm EST Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Callers can leave messages after hours and on Federal holidays. In addition to the toll-free number, consumers can send their queries via email to nidcrinfo@mail.nih.gov. To view, print, or order free publications, visit <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/> and click on "Oral Health." Spanish speakers can also access oral health information and publications through NIDCR's new Spanish-language Web site at <http://www.nidcr.nih.gov/espanol>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

5) BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION ACT IN CONGRESS

Legislation which would protect the rights of breastfeeding mothers who return to the workplace was reintroduced in Congress last week. Cosponsored by Representative Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), the Breastfeeding Promotion Act is intended to provide a unified national policy to keep mothers, their children, and their communities healthy. The Breastfeeding Promotion Act includes five provisions. They include: amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to protect breastfeeding women from being fired or discriminated against in the workplace; providing tax incentives for businesses that establish private lactation areas in the workplace; providing for a performance standard to ensure breast pumps are safe and effective.; allowing breastfeeding equipment and lactation services to be tax deductible for families; and protecting the privacy of breastfeeding mothers by ensuring they have break time and a private place to pump (applies to employers with 50 or more employees). For more information, including the full text of the bill, go to the US Breastfeeding Committee Web site at <http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/LegislationPolicy/ActionCampaigns/BreastfeedingPromotionAct/tabid/115/Default.aspx>.

SOURCES:

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/123/6/1446>
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5819a4.htm>
<http://www.jcrinc.com/ProductDetails1514.aspx>
<http://www.safekids.org/stages/>
<http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/LegislationPolicy/ActionCampaigns/BreastfeedingPromotionAct/tabid/115/Default.aspx>

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News From National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies— June 8, 2009

This Week:

- 1) Call for Parents and Young Infants to Participate in SIDS Study
- 2) Breastfeeding and Heart Disease
- 3) Study Identifies Key Proteins Needed for Ovulation
- 4) National Study of Mothers and Daughters and HPV Vaccine
- 5) Featured Web Site: HealthConnect One
- 6) Webinar: Informed Consent and Refusal in Maternity Care

MATERNAL-INFANT HEALTH NEWS

1) CALL FOR PARENTS AND YOUNG INFANTS TO PARTICIPATE IN SIDS STUDY A national research study on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is being conducted by a researcher at the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Parents and infants less than three months of age are invited to take part in the study, which will look at the issue of SIDS in day care settings. Young babies who are entering day care and those who are at home during the day with a parent will be studied by measuring sleep patterns and hormones that are markers for stress and circadian rhythm in infants. Because the study begins in July 2009, women who are currently pregnant or parents of babies who will be three months of age or younger at that time are encouraged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.firstcandle.org/SIDSstudy/>.

2) BREASTFEEDING AND HEART DISEASE

Women who breastfeed are at lower risk for heart disease later in life. Data from nearly 140,000 postmenopausal women (median age 63 years) were studied, as reported in the May 2009 edition of the journal "Obstetrics and Gynecology." The study authors found that postmenopausal women with a single live birth who breastfed for 7-12 months were significantly less likely to develop cardiovascular disease than women who never breastfed. Among the women, increased duration of lactation was also associated with lower rates of hypertension, diabetes and hyperlipidemia. Access the study online at http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Abstract/2009/05000/Duration_of_Lactation_and_Risk_Factors_for.5.aspx.

3) STUDY IDENTIFIES KEY PROTEINS NEEDED FOR OVULATION

In a study published in the May 15th edition of the journal "Science," researchers from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have identified two proteins essential for ovulation to take place. This research could impact the treatment of infertility caused by a failure of ovulation to occur as well as for developing new ways to prevent pregnancy by preventing the release of the egg. The proteins were identified in mice and appear to bring about the maturation and release of the egg. The study was funded in part by two NIH institutes, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). For more information, go to <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/051409-Ovulation.cfm> or access the study at <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/324/5929/890>.

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH NEWS

4) NATIONAL STUDY OF MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS AND HPV VACCINE

A study in the May 26th edition of the journal "Pediatrics" examines mothers' intention to vaccinate their daughters and themselves against human papillomavirus (HPV).

Researchers surveyed 10,521 mothers (all nurses) in the US between June 2006 and February 2007 to establish factors associated with a mother's intention to vaccinate a 9 to 12-year-old daughter. Of the 8,832 mothers who completed a survey (84% response rate), 7,207 had a daughter. Among mothers with a daughter, 48% intended to vaccinate a daughter if she were 9 to 12 years of age, 68% if she were 13 to 15 years of age, and 86% if she were 16 to 18 years of age. Forty-eight percent intended to receive the HPV vaccine themselves if recommended. Overall, mothers' intention to vaccinate a daughter under 13 years of age was lower than the intention to vaccinate an older daughter. This contrasts with national recommendations to target 11-12 year-old girls for HPV vaccination. To access the study online, go to <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/123/6/1439>.

5) FEATURED WEB SITE: HEALTHCONNECT ONE HealthConnect One (HC One) has a new Web site, with new design and easier navigation. HC One, formerly Chicago Health Connection, is a nationally recognized nonprofit training and technical assistance agency that uses innovative, community-based approaches to support direct-service providers in promoting the health of mothers, infants, and families. Their focus is on collaborative work with grassroots maternal and child health and social service providers. The HC One Web site features information about the organization's training, including their breastfeeding peer counselor program, and community-based doula program. Also highlighted is HC One's advocacy, promoting the role of community health workers, including doulas and breastfeeding peer counselors, across the country. To access the HC One Web site, go to <http://www.chicagohealthconnection.org/>.

ADVOCATES IN ACTION

6) WEBINAR: INFORMED CONSENT AND REFUSAL IN MATERNITY CARE

The Coalition for Improving Maternity Services (CIMS) will host a free Webinar, "Informed Consent and Refusal in Maternity Care" on June 19th from 1:00 to 2:30pm (EST). Experts from CIMS have examined how current laws and professional practice guidelines affect patient decision-making in maternity care, and demonstrate in this Webinar how patient access to evidence-based research is particularly important during a time when perinatal mortality and morbidity rates, interventions, and disparities are on the rise in the US. Continuing education credit is available for the session. Processing fees apply. Visit <http://www.motherfriendly.org> for additional details or register online at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/594055522>.

Sources:

http://journals.lww.com/greenjournal/Abstract/2009/05000/Duration_of_Lactation_and_Risk_Factors_for.5.aspx
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/123/6/1439>
<http://www.chicagohealthconnection.org/>
<http://www.firstcandle.org/SIDSstudy/>
<http://www.motherfriendly.org>
<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/news/releases/051409-Ovulation.cfm>
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/324/5929/890>
<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/594055522>

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Public Health Conferences and Events

- [World Conference on Disaster management \(WCDM\): Climate for Change: Communication, Collaboration and Cooperation](#). (Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness) - June 21-24, 2009, Toronto, Ontario.
- [National Environmental Health Association 73rd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition](#) - (National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)) - June 21-24, 2009, Atlanta, GA
- [Annual Society for Epidemiologic Research \(SER\) Meeting](#) - (Society for Epidemiologic Research (SER)) - June 23-26, 2009, Anaheim, CA
- [2009 AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting](#) - (AcademyHealth) - June 28-30, 2009, Chicago, IL
- [Association of University Programs in Health Administration \(AUPHA\) Annual Meeting: Innovation & Change: Preparing Today's Students to lead Tomorrow's Healthcare](#) - (Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA))- June 29–July 2, 2009, Chicago, IL
- [Eighth Annual Public Health Systems Research Interest Group Meeting](#) - (AcademyHealth) - June 30 - July 1, 2009, Chicago, IL

June Health Observances

1-July 4

Fireworks Safety Month
Prevent Blindness America
www.preventblindness.org

1-30

Home Safety Month
Home Safety Council
www.homesafetycouncil.org/homesafetymonth

1-30

Myasthenia Gravis Awareness Month
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
www.myasthenia.org

1-30

National Aphasia Awareness Month
National Aphasia Association
www.aphasia.org

1-30

National Scleroderma Awareness Month
Scleroderma Foundation
www.scleroderma.org



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