School Health & Safety Program

Board of Health

November 30th, 2016

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Christine Harper, Environmental Health Specialist
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Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
What is EPH?

**Environmental Public Health**

**Goal**: Prevent or mitigate public health impacts from pathogens and disease spread through water, air, food and the built environment.

**Approach**: Develop and implement regulatory and educational tools to develop a sustainable system of safe food and water; wastewater treatment; and solid and hazardous waste management.

Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
Support *all* K-12 Clark County schools in their sustainability efforts.

- Education and assistance in improving waste reduction awareness and recycling in schools, providing containers as needed.
- Assistance for schools in implementation and upkeep of food waste composting and recycling in school cafeterias, providing education, containers and sort tables, as needed.
- Sustainability outreach, providing waste audits, free field trips to transfer stations, educational lessons and activities, assistance etc.
Washington Green Schools

- Clark County partners with statewide nonprofit Washington Green Schools to bring an environmental certification process, helping schools certify in:

- School Green Teams choose an area that interests them, design and complete a project that will produce a lasting change, and then submit their report card for the certification process.

Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
Clark County Green Schools Summit

- Host Clark County Green Schools Summit each November
- The November 3rd Clark County Green Schools Summit brought students and their green team leaders from 33 schools to Clark College for a day of learning about environmental stewardship. More than 120 students and 40 teachers attended.
- Developing environmental leaders and giving them the tools to implement change in their schools.
Green Schools Summit

Introduction

What is EPH

Green Schools

School Program

Lead in Drinking Water

Governor's Directive

Recommendations

Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
**Program goal**

Our work aims to prevent disease and injury in public and private K-12 school settings.
New construction, remodels and portables classrooms

- Pre-application meetings and notes
- Site review
- Review plans
  - Focus on both requirements and recommendations
What we review

• WAC 246-366 and K-12 Guide
  – Adequate plumbing fixtures
  – Sewer and water
  – Indoor air quality
  – Sound control
  – Lighting
  – Vector control
  – Playgrounds
  – Specialized curriculum

Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
**Pre-occupancy inspection**

- Verify the code requirements for light, sound, plumbing fixtures, and temperature are met
- Address any additional hazards that may be observed
  - Bookshelves secured
  - Storage space
  - Protection from chemicals
Food safety inspections

• Routine
  – Twice a year for cafeterias
  – Once a year for student stores

• Work with staff to ensure proper food handling occurs in schools

• Verify equipment is operating as required

• Answer any questions staff may have

• Offer resources as applicable

Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health
Public notification response

- Respond to concerns from the public
  - Vectors
  - Food
- Work with school staff to remediate risk and public health concerns
We recommend that the Board of Health:

• Charge CCPH to engage the school districts and stakeholders to address environmental hazards within schools

• Officially support the funding for Governor’s Inslee’s Lead Directive report.
Charge CCPH to further engage the school districts and stakeholders to address environmental hazards within schools

- CCPH has the expertise and position to convene community discussions
  - CCPH was a hub of resources for school districts.
  - Contacted the school district administrators offering assistance
  - Provided resources and was a liaison for WA DOH
- Current WAC require local PH to be an active partner
  - Food safety, Plan Review, Waste Reduction, Nutrition
  - Requires periodic inspections of the entire school facility
The Board of Health requested to officially support the funding for Governor’s Inslee’s Lead Directive report

- Issued by the Governor early 2016
- Charged WA State DOH to work across all levels of government to reduce lead exposure
- Identifies lead as a major health hazard and takes initial steps to protect kids and the general public
- Funding for local health departments to offer inspections at no cost to the schools

**Important Note:**
There are other hazards within schools that need to be monitored and controlled.

*Clark County Public Health – Environmental Public Health*
We recommend that the Board of Health:

- Charge CCPH to engage the school districts and stakeholders to address environmental hazards within schools
- Officially support the funding for Governor’s Inslee’s Lead Directive report.
Questions and Contacts?

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School Health and Safety

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Green Schools Program

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