

# SUMMER 2008

## WEHA NEWSLETTER

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WYOMING ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

### Presidents Message

Hello everyone, I hope all is going well as we gear up for our busy time of the year. At least we don't have to fight the ice and snow for a few months, but it is Wyoming so I better not to speak to soon. W.E.H.A. has been preparing and planning for our annual education conference which will be held in Lander, October 7-9, 2008. Remember to nominate a deserving person for our annual awards. The event should be a great time with some great speakers as always. I hope to see you all there.

This may be the last newsletter during my term as president. Things have been rocky from time to time, but all was

good. I want to thank you all for your support. I am proud to have served W.E.H.A. It was a great learning experience and I had fun doing it. We have a great group of people in our organization. I hope W.E.H.A. continues to grow and succeed through out the years.

Thank you again,

Doug Evans, President

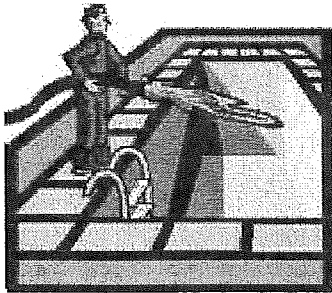
### "2008 AEC on the Winds"

The 2008 Wyoming Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference will be held in Lander on October 7 - 9, 2008. The Inn at Lander/Best Western will be the host for the event. A variety of environmental health speakers will be presenting

during the conference. Monday night mixer will be held at the Inn at Lander. W.E.H.A annual banquet will be Wednesday night. Save the date and come join us. Hope to see you there.

"Oh Beautiful for smoggy skies, insecticided grain,  
For strip-mined mountain's majesty above the asphalt plain.  
America, America, man sheds his waste on thee,  
And hides the pines with billboard signs, from sea to oily sea."

~George Carlin

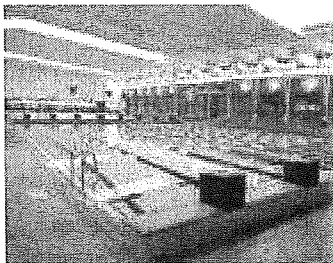


## CDC Posts New Fecal Response Recommendations

Hoping to address the growing threat of *cryptosporidium*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released revised guidelines for diarrheal fecal accident response. The new guidelines — the first in seven years — reflect recent research findings indicating that it takes longer to inactivate *crypto* than previously thought, according to CDC officials. This means that to inactivate 99.9 percent of *crypto oocysts*, in the event of a diarrheal contamination, operators should raise the free chlorine concentration to 20 ppm and maintain the water's pH between 7.2 and 7.5, and temperature at approximately 77 degrees Fahrenheit. These levels should be sustained for a minimum of 12.75 hours. Previous recommendations called for 20 ppm for eight hours. This change means longer facility closures, but it's important in preventing *crypto* outbreaks. "We are seeing an increase in the number of *crypto* outbreaks," says Michele Hlavsa, epidemiologist with CDC. "The new guidelines will better ensure that pool water will be fully disinfected." In 2007, officials documented some of the worst *crypto* outbreaks to date. Several states saw unusually large outbreaks, including Idaho, South

Dakota, Pennsylvania and Utah, which recorded more than 1,900 cases. *Crypto* is spread by swallowing pool water that's been contaminated with feces, usually diarrhea. To that end, Hlavsa said the revisions focused on the diarrheal response. Formed stool is not as likely to pose a risk because it typically does not contain pathogens. Pathogens are also more likely to be contained within the stool. Guidelines for formed stool response remain largely unchanged. The new guidelines will be incorporated into the Model Aquatic Health Code, which is currently in development. They are available now on the CDC Web site at [www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/fecal\\_response.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/fecal_response.htm). The corresponding research will be published in an upcoming volume of the *Journal of Water and Health*

I went into a McDonalds yesterday and said "I'd like some fries" The girl at the counter said, "Would you like some fries with that"  
Jay Leno



By Kendra Kozen, MAY 2008  
Aquatics International,  
[http://www.aquaticsintl.com/2008/may/0805\\_news\\_cdc.html](http://www.aquaticsintl.com/2008/may/0805_news_cdc.html)

## Stretching Environmental Health to the Limits

By: John Drinnon

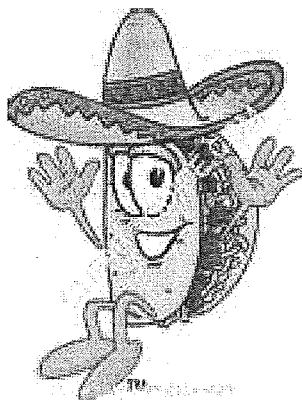
To state that Environmental Health is being stretched to our limits would be asserting the obvious! With the economic climate being what it is nationally, we as public health professionals will be called upon to do more with less resources (to include personnel) therefore we will have to be smarter and more streamlined to accomplish what is required of us. This may also include (dare I say it) reducing lesser programs that have minimal impact on public health and safety. For example, here in Natrona County we have since decommissioned our laboratory where we covered a variety of analytical services because there are private labs in our community that provide similar services. In addition, we no longer conduct routine inspections for mobile home parks but still continue to do campgrounds that offer pool/ spa amenities, limited food service and service buildings. This will free us to concentrate on programs that present elevated risk to include foodservice, aquatic facilities, body art establishments and other issues of relevance. That is not to say that we will discontinue to oversee the wastewater program locally because like many other state agencies, DEQ also has seen an increase in demand for their services with fewer personnel available to cover those assignments.

But perhaps there is some benefit to this dismal if not grim assessment. We as public health professionals may be better recognized for doing a job that is getting more complex and multifaceted. With NAFTA and an increasing global

economy, we can expect to see more importation of products with all the complications that come with items grown or manufactured in countries with minimal regulatory oversight. In fact, it is my understanding that even FDA is opening a considerable number of positions that have been previously unavailable to ensure better monitoring for the above mentioned topics. So ... to provide more with less: Like any other profession, we must grow in proficiency or become less effective in delivered services. There are newer tools in our arsenal that include data loggers that provide information during our absence in the field, infra-red thermometers that expedite temperature checks, handheld computers that eliminate the redundancy of documenting violations on tablets and transcribing them onto laptops (we have been using them in Natrona County for well over 18 years now), and GPS systems to establish coordinates for wastewater systems. All extremely useful, however, they do not replace competent personnel. So which will it be? Better planning to meet the demands for an increasingly more intricate job, or plod along stretching resources to the limit? That question can be better addressed with advanced program development. Or wait until the problem becomes a crisis and improvise. I prefer the former.

John Drinnon R.S.

Casper/ Natrona County Health Department



## E-coli outbreak from Taco Lettuce

by: [healthinspectors.com](http://healthinspectors.com)

Taco Lettuce Contaminated with cow manure. The lettuce in the taco might have been keeping company with cow manure. Federal officials say that lettuce that was served in Taco Johns restaurants was contaminated with cow manure, is probably what made 81 people sick in Iowa and Minnesota, a couple of years back, because of E-coli bacteria. The lettuce served at the Taco Johns restaurants was grown at the Wagus Ranch in California; the ranch apparently received its water to irrigate the lettuce from the two nearby dairies. The water was waste water from the dairies, thus, water on the lettuce contaminated with

Healthinspections.com, webcast 2/25/08

Just to give food for thought, the growing methods are not always thought through when farmers are raising crops. Ideas that seem to be a mutual benefit in the beginning may become a burden at a later date. A little education in the possible ways crops can be contaminated, could have prevented this from happening to the people in the Midwest.

**If you go in for argument, take care of your temper. Your logic, if you have any, will take care of itself.**

Joseph Farrell

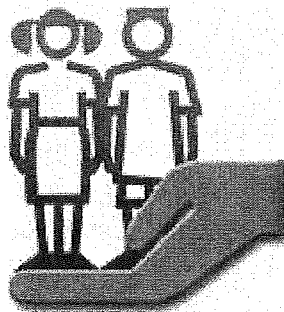
## Keeping Children Healthy in Child Care

By: Melody Warren

Every child gets sick at some point. While we can't always keep the children away from germs there are several steps that we can take to prevent the spread of germs. Basic sanitization practices and hand washing techniques are essential to the health and safety of children. However, there are still some child care providers that miss this point. Even the simplest task of washing their hands or reminding the children to wash their hands has not been the highest priority to some. Our child care profession-

als are educators and therefore by modeling good hand hygiene, they are promoting the practice with the children.

Many providers have difficulty distinguishing between the concepts of cleaning and sanitizing. Generally, cleaning removes the visible soil while sanitizing treats a cleaned and rinsed surface reducing the number of germs on the surface to a level that is unlikely to transmit disease.



## Child Care Continued:

The use of baby wipes, as an example, would clean the soil from the hands, reducing the number of germs, but they do not clean enough to make disease transmission unlikely. The use of gloves will help reduce contamination, but the caregiver still needs to remember to wash their hands thoroughly. The use of alcohol based hand sanitizers should not be used around children and shall be made inaccessible to the children. According to the CDC report, alcohol-based hand sanitizers typically contain isopropanol, ethanol, n-propanol or a combination of these chemicals that a concentration of 60% to 95% alcohol. These amounts of alcohol may represent potentially toxic exposures that could have significant health consequences. Skin absorption of ethanol and isopropanol can occur with brief exposures to intact skin, this route of entry into the body is unlikely to be a problem. The biggest worry for poisoning is from ingestion of the products. The estimated amount of the more widely distributed hand sanitizer products that could be potentially toxic for a toddler would be only 0.5cc or (1-2 tsp) for the average toddler.

Child care providers and children in child care should wash their hands with soap and water in each of the situations listed in Caring For Our Children Standard 3.020 and whenever their hands are visibly soiled. Upon arrival for the day or when moving from child care group to another; Before and After: eating, handling food, or feeding a child, giving medication, and playing in water that is used by more than one person. After: diapering, using the toilet or helping a child use the toilet; handling bodily fluid from sneezing, wiping and blowing noses,

handling uncooked food, handling pets and other animals, playing in sandboxes, and cleaning or handling garbage. Unfortunately, more and more providers are relying on the hand sanitizers as a practical way to keep their hands clean. Some providers have even begun to use the alcohol-based gels on the children's hands. According to the CDC report, there should be limited use of the hand rubs in child care and the product should only be used in areas inaccessible to children. The alcohol-based rubs should be discouraged in child care areas or limited to use when there is no visible soil on hands, where sinks are not available, and where the use and control of containers of the chemical sanitizer can ensure that no child can have independent use of the container or dispenser. Ensure that manufacturer instructions are being followed and that the hands are wet for at least 15 seconds. Child Care professionals should be reminded to wash the hands of infants as well. For non mobile infants and toddlers, caregivers should be using the three towel method to ensure that the children's hands are clean. One dampened and soapy towel, one dampened towel with water for rinsing, and one towel for drying. Of course, the caregiver should wash their hands prior to washing the infant's hand. For mobile toddlers and older children, providers need to ensure that they are washing their hands for at least 20 seconds and rinsing for 10 seconds.

## Child Care Continued:

A song that can be shared with those in the child care field:

Twinkle, twinkle little star,  
Look how clean my two hands are,  
Soap and water, wash and scrub  
Get those germs off rub-a-dub,  
Twinkle, twinkle little star,  
Look how clean my two hands are.

By encouraging and enforcing proper hand washing and sanitizing techniques to those that care for our children, we are laying the foundation for healthier child care settings. 2002 Update on Hand Hygiene in Child (Day) Care Settings, Susan Aronson, MD, FAAP, Child Care Exchange 3/03- pg. 58-61.

Courtesy of Do Bugs Need Drugs the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance.

- Melody Warren Wyoming Department of Family Services

**"The supreme irony of life is that hardly anyone gets out of it alive."**

**Robert  
Heinlein**

President - Doug Evans; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Past-President -Sherry Maston; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002

President-Elect -Joe Martinez; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002

Treasurer - Terri Leichtweis; 100 Central Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82007

Secretary - Neal Bloomenrader; 2219 Carey Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82002

## Needed

### WEHA Award Nominations

It is that time again to submit nominations for the WEHA awards to be presented at the Annual Education Conference in October. There are 3 different awards complete the application form:

#### Outstanding Environmental Health Professional – Nomination can include the following:

- Performance of assigned duties and job description
  - Cooperation with fellow workers and peers
  - Willingness to take constructive criticism and offer the same to others in a tactful manner Educational background including special training or education
  - Published or articles written or presented by the nominee relating to his/her profession
  - Outline the areas in which the candidate has made a significant recognizable contribution to WEHA
  - Recommendations should be signed by the individual or individuals recommending the candidate
- Performance of assigned duties and job description
  - Cooperation with fellow workers and peers
  - Willingness to take constructive criticism and offer the same to others in a tactful manner
  - Educational background including special training or education
  - Published or articles written or presented by the nominee relating to his/her profession
  - Outline the areas in which the candidate has made a significant recognizable contribution to WEHA
  - Recommendations should be signed by the individual or individuals recommending the candidate

### Arthur Williamson

Arthur Williamson was director of water quality before the Department of Environmental Quality became an agency. He did outstanding work in the State of Wyoming from 1960 throughout the 1970's. He was a well educated and versed engineer working worldwide in the Centers of Disease Control on catastrophes in foreign countries, while always promoting public health.

The criteria for a nomination can include the same outline as the Outstanding Environmental Health Professional except:

Recipient need not be a member of our organization

Candidate must be a person who has performed exemplary accomplishments in the Environmental Health field

### Donkey—Tail

Is a humorous award presented to any member of the association who is recommended in writing on the award form by another member. The written recommendation should include an account of an actual humorous incident which occurred during the year while in the line of duty.

Wyoming Environmental Health Association

Award Nomination Form

Nomination of the award of:

**Outstanding Environmental Health Professional    Arthur Williamson    Donkey Tail**

Date of nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ For the year: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidates full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Immediate organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (office) \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Years on the job: \_\_\_\_\_

Descriptions of Duties: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the one or more specific achievement's or sustained high level of performance for which this candidate is being nominated. (If needed, add one page only.)

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Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations must reach Awards Committee a minimum of 60 days prior to the AEC. (Deadline Sept. 1, 2008)

\*For award information refer to WEHA Procedures Manual, Section 5.

**Forward nominations To Linda Stratton, 2219 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82002**