

MACCHE

*The Mid-Atlantic Center for
Children's Health and the Environment*

Fact Sheet:

School Nurses and Children's Health and the Environment



The Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment (MACCHE) is one of ten pediatric environmental health specialty units (PEHSUs) in the United States. MACCHE is based at Children's National Medical Center and the George Washington University School of Public Health.

How can the school nurse use the services MACCHE?

All school nurses can call or e-mail MACCHE (1-866-622-2431, MACCHE@cnmc.org) for any health problem that he/she believes may be related to an environmental factor.

- Do you have children whose asthma is made worse by cockroach exposure or paint fumes in the school?
- Are you worried about the health effects of mold or of the use of pesticides on the health of the students for whom you are responsible?
- Has a student, parent or teacher asked you about the health effects of exposures to chemicals in cleaning supplies, lab classes, shop classes, or cosmetology classes?

These are all the kinds of questions that MACCHE can help you answer, and there is no charge for the call.

Who else can access MACCHE services?

Anyone who lives in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania or West Virginia can call or e-mail us. (There are other PEHSUs for people who live in other parts of the US (see www.pehsu.net). As a school nurse, you can share our contact information with school custodians, teachers, administrators, parents and students. As a member of the community, you can share our contact information with your relatives, friends, fellow religious or civic group members.

What is the most important environmental health problem that comes to MACCHE's attention?

Climate change is currently adversely affecting the health of every child on Earth and these adverse effects will only get worse with time until the US and other countries severely limit the production of greenhouse gasses.

Our most common inquiry regards the health of children with asthma in schools and environmental exposures that can trigger attacks. Asthma is clearly made worse in sensitized individuals who are exposed to rodent dander, cockroach antigen, molds, and other airway irritants.

For further information, e-mail MACCHE at macche@cnmc.org or call 1-866-622-2431.

MACCHE is supported by The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics with funds (in part) by the cooperative agreement award number 1U61TS000118-01 from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Acknowledgement: The US EPA supports the PEHSU by providing funds to ATSDR under Inter-Agency Agreement number DW-75-92301301-0. Neither EPA nor ATSDR endorse the purchase of any commercial products or services mentioned in PEHSU publications.



www.ChildrensNational.org/macche