

This school year is anything but normal. But some things remain the same: our commitment to teaching, connecting, and providing healthy learning environments. Read on for resources to support you, as we push on together. Please share this information with your networks. For live links, see the attachment or read online at: <https://www.epa.gov/children/healthy-schools-news-pacific-northwest>



NEW! Tribal Curriculum on Lead Awareness - Keeping Our Children Healthy

A new EPA curriculum is available to help tribes and all communities protect children from potential lead exposure. The materials were developed in partnership with over 200 tribal representatives from about 80 tribal governments and organizations. The [Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping our Children Healthy!](#) curriculum provides practical, on-the-ground, community-based resources to reduce childhood lead exposure. The four modules include lesson plans, worksheets, key messages, presentation slides, and kids activity sheets to improve awareness of the dangers associated with lead exposure and promote preventative actions. The design balances diverse community backgrounds, technical information, and localized knowledge to allow instructors to plan and deliver unique messages within each structured module.

Apply for Environmental Youth Award

EPA is now accepting applications for the 2021 President's Environmental Youth Awards. PEYA recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects by K-12 youth, which promote environmental awareness and encourage community involvement. EPA will select up to two winners in each of its 10 Regions – one for grades K-5 and one for grades 6-12. Application and eligibility information are on [EPA's PEYA page](#). **Due date: February 19, 2021**



Apply for Presidential Innovation Awards for Environmental Educators

PIAEE recognizes outstanding K-12 educators who integrate environmental, place-based, experiential learning into curricula and school facility management. Up to two teachers from each of EPA's 10 regions will receive the award. Teachers will receive a presidential plaque and up to \$2,500 for further professional development in environmental education. Winning teachers' local education agencies will also receive awards of up to \$2,500 to fund environmental activities. Details are on [EPA's PIAEE page](#). **Due Date: February 19, 2021**

Attend a Webinar: Indoor Air Quality in Schools - Addressing the Concept of Layered Risk Amidst COVID-19

Join experts from EPA's Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program, International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate, and American Industrial Hygiene Association. Panelists will discuss how proper IAQ management can help reduce health risks – including virus transmission. [Register here](#). **November 19, 2020, 9-10:30 am Pacific**

Protect Children's Environmental Health

Children are often more vulnerable to pollutants than adults. This is due to differences in behavior and biology that can lead to greater exposure and unique windows of susceptibility during development. We have info and resources for parents, schools, and teachers to help you reduce asthma triggers, identify home and classroom hazards, and take cost-effective steps to protect kids from environmental risks. Visit <https://www.epa.gov/children>.



Healthy Communities, Healthy Children.

Mitigate Exposure to 3D Printer Emissions in Schools

EPA has partnered with Chemical Insights, an institute of Underwriters Laboratories, to launch a [four-part learning module series](#). The series covers potential health risks to students and staff associated with 3D printer emissions. The modules, available on [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](#), walk you through why indoor air quality (IAQ) matters, the IAQ impact of operating 3D printers, and how to mitigate the unintended consequences of using this exciting technology.



Clean up your handwashing routine:

Washing hands is one of the easiest ways to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses.

Handwashing refresher:

- Wet your hands with clean, running water.
- Turn off the tap and apply soap.
- Rub your hands together, covering all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
- Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Rinse your hands under clean, running water.
- Dry your hands using a clean towel.

If you don't have access to soap and water, rub your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

Use Disinfectants with Caution

EPA continues to add products to its [list](#) of disinfectants expected to kill COVID-19. Remember:

- Always follow the product label. This includes following directions regarding the contact time, or the amount of time the surface should be visibly wet.
- The risk disinfectants pose to human health increases if the label is not followed.
- Keep disinfectants out of reach of children. Children should not apply disinfectants, including pre-moistened disinfectant wipes and sprays. While disinfectants are powerful tools for controlling the spread of disease, they may harm children's health if used or stored incorrectly.
- Only use fogging, fumigation, and wide-area or electrostatic spraying to apply EPA-registered products designed and labeled for use in this way.
- Do not apply disinfectants to skin, food, or cloth face coverings.
- Do not mix disinfectants with other chemicals.
- If a disinfectant from List N is not available, diluted household bleach can be used. Closely follow the precautions and bleach dilution directions on the [CDC's website](#).
- Ventilation, for example by opening windows or doors, is helpful in reducing exposure to cleaning products, byproducts and any particles resuspended during cleaning. See: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/ventilation-and-coronavirus-covid-19>.
- For more: <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools/healthy-indoor-environments-schools-plans-practices-and-principles-maintaining-healthy> and <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/i-need-disinfect-public-space-store-or-school-whatdo-i-need-know>.

Healthy School NEWS is published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10. Region 10 includes the states of Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Oregon and the tribes within those boundaries. For general information about school environmental health or to provide feedback on this newsletter, please contact Andrea Lindsay at lindsay.andrea@epa.gov.

To be added to or removed from the distribution list, please email lindsay.andrea@epa.gov with your request. Contact Region 10's Public Environmental Resource Center, the education, publication and information gateway to EPA's Region 10 Office, for free publications and educational resources for your school. Call (800) 424-4EPA or email epa-seattle@epa.gov.

EPA Schools: www.epa.gov/schools

EPA Environmental Education: www.epa.gov/enviroed/

EPA Children's Environmental Health: www.epa.gov/children

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YOUR EPA CHILDREN'S HEALTH TEAM

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