

## THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

A NEWSLETTER FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Issue 4: Setback distances, children's environmental health, and upcoming events 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter | October 2018

Accumulation of human health studies related to shale gas extraction is building.

*"... [related to hydraulic fracturing] the most common setback distances from buildings were 300 and 500 ft with a range of 150-1,500 ft. Based on historical catastrophic events, thermal modeling, vapor cloud modeling, and air pollution data, these distances do not appear sufficient to protect public health and safety."*

[Adequacy of Current State Setbacks for Directional High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in the Marcellus, Barnett, and Niobrara Shale Plays.](#)

M Haley, M McCawley, A Epstein, B. Arrington, E Ferrell Bjerke, 2016

### SETBACK DISTANCES & PUBLIC HEALTH How Close Is Too Close?

New study, [Setback distances for unconventional oil and gas development: Delphi study results](#), prompts EHP to recommend increased setback distances for shale gas facilities in PA.

To better protect public health, the following recommendations are laid out in EHP's handout:

#### [Setback Distances, Public Health and Shale Gas Development](#)

- Establish a setback distance minimum of 0.6 mile (3281 feet or 1 km) from smaller shale gas facilities, such as wells, that emit 100 to 500 grams/hour.
- Establish a setback distance minimum of 1 ¼ miles (6600 feet or 2 km) from gas processing plants and large compressor complexes whose emissions exceed 1000 grams/hour.
- Establish a setback distance minimum of 1 ¼ miles (6600 feet or 2 km) for schools/daycares, hospitals, nursing homes, and other high-occupancy buildings that house vulnerable populations and/or are difficult to evacuate.

## CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY – OCT 11, 2018

### [A Blueprint for Protecting Children's Environmental Health : An Urgent call to Action](#)

“Despite the many successes and advancements in the field of children's environmental health (CEH) over the past few decades, today's children face an epidemic of illnesses and chronic diseases - linked to environmental exposures, and our changing climate. There is an urgent need to put children and their families into the forefront of our nation's public health and environmental health related actions.”

And as it relates to shale gas development:

### [Risks to Children at Day Care Centers & Schools Near Shale Gas Development](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN WESTERN PA

### **PA HEALTH CHECK-UP:** Health Impacts of Unconventional Gas Development Industry from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia

Saturday, October 13, 2018 | 9:00 – 4:00

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chatham University and Drexel University invite you to an innovative event presenting valuable information for healthcare providers using the Pecha Kucha presentation style. Information can be found [HERE](#).

### **THE SHALE GAS INDUSTRY, PLASTICS & OUR HEALTH**

Thursday, November 1, 2018 | 7:00 – 9:00pm

*Sweetwater Center for the Arts, 200 Broad Street, Sewickley, PA, 15143*

Hosted by Communities First – Sewickley Valley and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. Will feature Marsha Haley, MD, from UPMC and Carole Perry, MPH, PhD, and Debbie Larson from EHP. For more information [HERE](#).

### **2018 SHALE AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE**

Wednesday November 14, 2018 | 9:00 – 5:00 (sign-in 8:30)

*University of Pittsburgh's University Club, 123 University Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15260*

**The conference is free and features new research and practical applications.  
Optional buffet lunch is \$14.**

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

Nicole Deziel, PhD, Yale School of Public Health, presenting a study on shale gas activity and sexually transmitted infections in Ohio, Research on Childhood Cancer in Pennsylvania, Public Health and the Plastics Lifecycle, Improving access to health information and treatment, Break-out session for health professionals, and more. For more information click [HERE](#).

This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*  
*The University of Pittsburgh is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution.*

## NATIONAL HEALTH EDUCATION WEEK

OCT 15-19, 2018

We invite healthcare professionals to view our website for resources, tools and factsheets to assist in responding to patient care in relation to shale gas exposures. Information for your patients including ways to reduce environmental exposures in the home. Access [HERE](#).



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**The Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project (EHP)** is a nonprofit public health organization that assists and supports residents of Southwestern Pennsylvania and beyond who believe their health has been, or could be, impacted by unconventional oil and gas development (UOGD, or Fracking).

**Services offered by EHP**

- [Medical ToolKit – Screening & Assessment Tools – Reference Materials](#)
- [CME/CEU Credits](#)
- [National Shale Gas & Oil Health Registry](#)
- [Latest health studies related to UOGD](#)



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