



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2018

3rd Annual Children's Environmental Health Day: October 11, 2018

Creating a Unified Voice to Protect Children in Their Environment

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Thursday, October 11th, 2018 is [Children's Environmental Health \(CEH\) Day](#). The Children's Environmental Health Network (CEHN) established CEH Day in 2016, to be observed on the second Thursday of every October, to raise awareness and incite action regarding the importance of safe and healthy environments for all children. Clean air and water, safe food and consumer products, and healthy places to live, learn, and play are critical for children's health and development. CEHN Executive Director Nsedu Witherspoon states, "CEHN organizes this day of action for all children each year to lift them up, remind us all of their incredible value and worth, and encourage us to do more and better for them and their collective health."

Individuals and organizations can display their support of the environment and children's health through a variety of simple actions, facilitated by tools on the website. Examples of events or activities to promote CEH Day include requesting a CEH Day city or state proclamation, hosting an educational workshop, releasing a new report or initiative, meeting with an elected official about the importance of children's environmental health issues, and organizing a stream clean-up among many other ideas. The [CEH Day Events & Activities Map](#) is an interactive tool that allows people to see and submit events and activities taking place throughout the country.

Examples of actions:

CEH Day has been endorsed by Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, and Omaha, Nebraska, an EPA Superfund Site, is hosting its first CEH Day Event on October 11, 2018. A Superfund site is an area in the U.S. that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the EPA as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. The after-school CEH Day Event will take place outside the Omaha Children's Museum adjacent to the Liberty Elementary School in partnership with the Douglas County Health Department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, City of Omaha Lead Information Office, and the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance. Free lead, body mass index (BMI), and medical home screenings will be performed. In addition, kids and their families can check their addresses for previous lead testing if they live in the Superfund Site (11 zip codes across Omaha). Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance will also provide information about maintaining a healthy home: safe, clean, contaminant-free, well-ventilated, pest free, well maintained, and energy-efficient. This event establishes Omaha's new tradition of honoring CEH Day each year. Dr. Kimberly White of the University of Nebraska & Children's Hospital, who has been instrumental in organizing this

effort, states, "CEH Day is a day for kids, for keeping them safe, healthy, and excited to learn about their Omaha environment. We hope this inaugural event is the first of many to celebrate CEH Day in Omaha."

The University of California, Irvine (UCI) School of Medicine in collaboration with their Health Policy Elective student leaders are organizing events and activities for CEH Day, including a [letter writing campaign](#), social media promotion, and on October 18th, a special Pediatric Environmental Health seminar hosted by a faculty clinic pediatrician at UC Irvine Family Health Center to educate and inspire action regarding children's environmental health.

Join the Conversation and Promotions—Make Your Voice Heard

CEHN is hosting a [Twitter Chat](#) on October 11th, 2018 at 2:00 pm ET that will focus on the importance of youth engagement in the CEH Movement and the obstacles to engagement. It will also highlight resources, projects, and initiatives that are youth led or that boost youth involvement in CEH-related issues. Most importantly, the chat aims to hear and learn directly from youth who are involved in CEH related advocacy or research. Young leaders involved in efforts to achieve healthier communities and environmental health equity provide a critical voice needed to advance child protective policies so that every child has the right to reach their full potential.

All are invited to join the conversation on Twitter (please use the #CEHchat hashtag), and all are encouraged to promote CEH Day using the ready-made social media messages found in the [promotional toolkit](#). CEH-related campaigns or organizations in cities/states that successfully obtained a CEH Day proclamation for Oct 11, 2018 can put them to good use via a [proclamations advocacy toolkit](#). This toolkit provides ideas and sample messaging to help hold elected officials accountable to prioritize children's environmental health every day of the year, not just on CEH Day. Collectively, the proclamations and other actions taken at state, city and community levels, are a means to inspire progress towards placing children at the center of all policy and decision-making.

View a brief Video of CEH Day Partner Organizations

- Why Children's Environmental Health? <https://youtu.be/Yt1rQusBblU>

CEH Day Partners:

- Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Association of Poison Control Centers
- American Lung Association
- American Public Health Association
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Black Millennials for Flint

- ecoAmerica Climate for Health program
- Friends of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
- Green For All
- Green Latinos
- Health Care Without Harm
- Healthy Schools Network
- Maryland Environmental Health Network
- Moms Clean Air Force
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- National Environmental Health Association
- National Institute for Children’s Health Quality
- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units
- Trust for America’s Health
- UCSF Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Zero Hour

About the Children’s Environmental Health Network

CEHN is a national multi-disciplinary organization whose mission is to protect the developing child from environmental health hazards and promote a healthier environment. As the nation’s leading organization dedicated to children’s environmental health, CEHN: stimulates preventive research; promotes sound policy; provides education and training to various audiences; and elevates public awareness of environmental hazards to children. For more information, visit www.cehn.org.

