



CHICKAHOMINY HEALTH NEWS

NEWSWORTHY

GLOBAL

Melamine

Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a nationwide "import alert" on all food products manufactured in China, including infant formula. An earlier alert had been in place for milk-containing imports since October 10, but the FDA is now expanding its alert based on new data. At least 4 children have died of kidney failure and 53,000 have fallen ill in China this year after drinking milk or consuming dairy products laced with melamine, which is usually used in making plastics and fertilizers.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD)

November 19

"World COPD Day on 19 November is a global effort to expand understanding of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and advocate for better care for patients. Currently 210 million people have the illness, according to 2007 WHO estimates. WHO predicts that COPD will become the fourth leading cause of death worldwide by 2030. Key risk factors for COPD are tobacco smoking, indoor and outdoor air pollution, and exposure to occupational dusts and chemicals. Organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD), the Day is marked by activities implemented by health care professionals and patient groups throughout the world." --From WHO website (who.int)

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SPOTLIGHT: INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH

November is national prematurity awareness month, so it is fitting that we pay some attention to the health of our infants. This newsletter is also being used to mention the health of our young children with highlights on food safety [see *Melamine*, right] and influenza-associated pediatric deaths [see section below right].

The CDC is promoting prematurity awareness so as to address the fact that 1 in 8 live births are born prematurely in the United States, which equates to roughly 500,000 babies. Prematurity is the leading cause of death among newborns. Risk factors for prematurity (defined as birth at least 3 weeks before the due



Madeline (full-term baby)
photo taken at 6 months old

date) include: carrying more than one baby (twins, triplets, quadruplets or more), having a previous preterm birth, problems with the uterus or cervix, chronic health problems in the mother, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and clotting disorders, certain infections during pregnancy,

cigarette smoking, alcohol use, or illicit drug use during pregnancy.

Visit the CDC website for more:
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PrematureBirth/>

Prematurity accounted for more than half of all infant deaths in Virginia in 2007 (839 total deaths). Governor Timothy M. Kaine has set a target to reduce the overall infant mortality rate in the Commonwealth from 7.7 per 1,000 live births to below 7 by the year 2010. State health commissioner, Dr. Karen Remley, MD, MBA, has appointed a Working Group composed of community leaders and healthcare professionals to develop specific strategies and actions to reduce this rate.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

What we are seeing in Chickahominy:

- Oct '08 Reported Diseases
- 4 Salmonellosis cases (ages 9-59, not linked)
- 3 MRSA, invasive infections (ages 41-63)
- 1 Giardiasis (3-year old girl)
- 4 Varicella infections (ages 4 months to 7 years)
- 1 probable Pertussis infection in a 11-year old boy
- 1 Shigellosis in a 44 year old male
- 1 Campylobacteriosis in a 48 year old female

Influenza-associated Pediatric Mortality

Children die every year in the United States from influenza and its complications; over the past five years, close to 400 children have died from influenza and its complications. More than 20,000 U.S. children under the age of 5 are hospitalized due to influenza each year. Influenza-associated pediatric death is listed as a reportable disease in Virginia; three (3) deaths were reported in 2006.

The National Association of Child Care Professionals (NACCP), Families Fighting Flu, and the Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition have launched their second annual national awareness campaign, "Fighting Flu in Child Care Settings: Building Blocks to Increase Influenza Awareness." Over 1,300 facilities

across the nation will be involved in this year's campaign.

A recent survey of 755 U.S. mothers with at least one child eight years of age or younger who spends at least one hour per week in child care showed that 20% of those surveyed believed that influenza was an infectious disease there were most concerned their child could pick up at child care. Sixty-three percent of mothers indicated that they were either somewhat or very concerned that their child could catch influenza in a child care setting. Survey results can be accessed through the Families Fighting Flu website:
<http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/>

On this website, you will also find a *very heart-wrenching* 7-minute video produced by the CDC involving parent and families' stories who have lost a child to influenza:
<http://www.familiesfightingflu.org/media/>