The 84th West Virginia Public Health Association Annual Conference will be held September 17-19, 2008, at the Snowshoe Mountain Resort in Snowshoe, WV. This year’s theme is “Public Health Victories through Teamwork.” The agenda is complete with notable speakers, including Linda Degutis, President of the American Public Health Association. Each section is busy preparing for a wonderful conference. The WVPHA Annual Conference provides an excellent opportunity for learning and networking. The all attendee theme dinner will be held on Wednesday night, with the more formal Presidents’ Banquet on Thursday night. Additional information about the agenda, registration, and lodging can be found at http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvpha/Conference/index.htm.

We hope to see you there!
To All Sanitarians-in-Training

There is a PES Exam scheduled for September 25, 2008, 9:00 AM at the Office of Environmental Health Services, One Davis Square, Suite 200, Charleston for any SIT's interested in taking it. You must notify me by September 9, 2008 to sign up to take it so a test can be ordered for you.

David P. Thornton

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Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Program

By: Brandon Lewis

The Office of Environmental Health Services, Radiation, Toxics, and Indoor Air Division has hired a former West Virginia State Police Chemist with experience in Methamphetamine Laboratory Investigations and Analysis. Brandon Lewis spent the first four years of his employment with the State of West Virginia as a Forensic Chemist assigned to the West Virginia State Police Crime Lab. While at the crime lab, Brandon analyzed evidence from many drug cases, and obtained specialized training in the field of Methamphetamine Laboratory (Clandestine Drug Labs) Investigation and Analysis. After the State Police, Brandon went to work for the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner where he worked in two capacities, Forensic Toxicologist and Forensic Investigator. Brandon feels it is an honor to be a part of a great organization like OEHS.

The Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Program’s (CDLR) first item was to inform all law enforcement agencies the regulation was signed into law and what role those agencies play. Forms were designed to assist the agencies in the notification process.

Licensing contractors and technicians was the next task. Forms were designed to be used in the application process. Contractors were informed of the new rule and what role they would play. Contractors now have to employ individuals properly trained by a West Virginia accredited training provider in Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation. The technicians must also complete a 40 hour Hazardous Material Operator Course.

To date, the Clandestine Drug Laboratory Program has received thirty (30) notifications from law enforcement and county mission planning offices, and three (3) complaints to investigate.

For more information on the Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Program please contact Brandon Lewis at 304-558-6782 or branlonlewis@wvdhhr.org.

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Salmonella Saint Paul

By Suzanne Wilson, IDEP

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states, the Indian Health Service, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an ongoing multi-state outbreak of human Salmonella serotype Saintpaul infections. Several epidemiologic investigations involving individual cases and clusters of cases associated to restaurants, at both the local and national level, have been carried out to determine the source of this outbreak. These epidemiological studies indicate that more than one food vehicle is involved. No one food item can explain the entire outbreak. By themselves, tomatoes, cannot explain the entire outbreak, nor do jalapeño peppers explain all the clusters. Although rare, there have been outbreaks in the past in which more than one food source has been implicated.

At present, information indicates that jalapeño peppers and serrano peppers grown, harvested, or packed in Mexico are the cause of some clusters and are major food vehicles for the outbreak. Although tomatoes currently on the market are safe, raw tomatoes consumed early in the outbreak are still under investigation. The outbreak strain Salmonella Saintpaul has been isolated from jalapeño, and serrano peppers. These foods were sampled as the result of traceback investigations based on the epidemiologic investigations of clusters. The outbreak strain has also been isolated from an agricultural water sample collected on a farm in Mexico that supplied peppers to the Texas distribution center where one of the positive jalapeño pepper samples was taken. Since April, 1330 persons infected with Salmonella Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

Currently there has been one case in West Virginia confirmed to be associated to this outbreak. The outbreak appears to be ongoing, but with fewer new illnesses reported each day.
O ther Upcom ing Trai ning

IDEP foodborne illness investigation – Canaan Valley – Aug. 21, 2008
Beckley District In-service meeting – Beckley, WV – Aug. 29, 2008
Fairmont District In-Service meeting – Marion Co. Either Oct. 3 or 10

Official In-Service agenda coming soon

Sanitarian Training Class –
- Week 1-Aug. 11-15 – Charleston, WV – PH 101
- Week 2-Aug. 25-29 – Morgantown, WV – Sewage
- Week 3-Sept. 8-12 – Morgantown, WV – Sewage
- Week 4-Sept. 22-26 – Charleston, WV – Various programs
- Week 5-Oct. 6-10 – Charleston, WV – Various programs
- Week 6-Oct. 21-24 – Charleston, WV – Water, Insects, Food
- Week 7-Nov. 17-21 – Morgantown, WV – Food
- Week 8-Dec. 8-12 – Morgantown, WV – Pools

![Image](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Quiz Time

The 2005 Food Code Version
1. Hot foods must be held at _____ °F or above.
2. What are the eight major food allergens?
3. Name the “Big Five” reportable diseases.
4. Handwashing sinks must provide water at a temperature of at least _____°F through a mixing valve or combination faucet.
5. If proper procedures are in place, and a food is taken out of a 41°F temperature then monitored to ensure that it remains below 70°F, time may be used as a public health control for up to _____ hours.
6. If consumers are offered the choice of ordering a raw or undercooked animal food, they must be informed of the increased risk of consuming that food by __________ and __________.

Answers To Last Quiz:

1. Risk Control Factors: Improper holding temps, inadequate cooking temps, contaminated equipment, food from unsafe sources, and poor personal hygiene.
2. Psittacosis: disease caused by Pigeon droppings.
3. Chlorine residual for public water—.25
4. Zoonosis is the disease of animals communicable to man.—True
5. Max. length of 100 feet for a standard soil absorption trench.
6. Turnover rate in a pool—8 hours
7. Food prep area lighting requirement—50 footcandles
8. Disease flare ups at irregular intervals—Sporadic
9. Body Piercing records must be kept for 3 years.

Crisis Leadership by Glenn Klann
“in the final analysis it is all about people”
Hello All. I hope everyone is enjoying the nice, wet, summer. While it may be a pain to keep the lawn mowed, for those performing site evaluations for onsite systems the extra rain is beneficial. Wetting the soil with water from a spray bottle, while helpful, is not as effective as the more uniform saturation from rainfall which we are enjoying this summer. Do not expect heavy summer rains to fill holes to the height of the seasonal water table, however. Also, remember the actual water table elevation will almost always be above the height of the standing water, during any season. You must look for the redox features! (Or call them mottles, if you insist.) Examination of the sidewall of the 6’ excavation is necessary in order to make a determination of the existence of a seasonal water table, and its precise elevation. For this reason we must insist on a backhoe pit (rather than an auger hole) in order to properly evaluate a site. Remember to encourage citizens to take advantage of the WVDEP’s low interest loan program for failing septic systems, administered by West Virginia Housing through various nonprofit loan originators across the state. Proposed system modifications should be the same as would be permitted normally (not gold-plated due to the loan amount ceiling); except that, surface discharging systems can not be considered under the DEP’s program. In no case should a modification be considered under this program which does not have a reasonable chance of functioning long-term.

The next round of statewide refresher training will be this fall, with dates for each district being released soon. This training will concentrate on alternative systems, and site evaluations for these systems. I look forward to seeing you then, if we miss you at Snowshoe!