

March 2013

Focus on...

Multilingual Cleaning and Asthma Fact Sheets Available

The <u>Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program (WRAPP)</u>, of the California Department of Public Health has found that work-related asthma among custodians and cleaners is double the rate in the overall workforce. WRAPP has also found that teachers, office workers, and other building occupants can get asthma from cleaning chemicals used in their workplaces.

A new set of multilingual worker fact sheets explain work-related asthma, how it can be prevented from cleaning product exposures, and what to do if a worker experiences symptoms. The fact sheets can help workers and employers find safer cleaning products by providing web links for two independent organizations, EcoLogo and Green Seal. These groups certify that cleaning products have met high standards to protect human health and the environment. WRAPP participated in the development of cleaning product standards and successfully argued for the prohibition of ingredients known to cause allergic-type asthma.



The fact sheets are available in <u>English</u>, <u>Spanish</u> and <u>Chinese</u>. Another, more <u>detailed fact</u> <u>sheet is available in English</u> for employers and facilities staff.

WRAPP is part of the <u>Occupational Health Branch (OHB)</u> of the California Department of Public Health.

Resources

Worker cleaning and asthma fact sheets <u>English</u>, <u>Spanish</u>, <u>Chinese</u>
More detailed fact sheet on cleaning and asthma <u>English</u>
<u>Work-Related Asthma Prevention Program (WRAPP)</u>

<u>OHB</u> improves California worker health and safety through prevention activities. We gather information on job hazards, test new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and help make changes at the workplace.

Email OHW@cdph.ca.gov with feedback about this update or change of address.

