



McDowell County FACES Newsletter

The FACES of HOPE

July , 2012

facesfrn.com

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Texting and Cell Phone Enforcement Begins July 1, 2012

West Virginia's ban on text messaging and the use of handheld cell phones while driving is now in effect. The law technically became effective June 1, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program has spent the early summer educating the public on West Virginia's distracted driving law. Enforcement began July 1, in time for the holiday week.

Fines are \$100 (first offense), then \$200, then \$300. Three points assessed against driver's license on third and subsequent violations. Operation with hands-free devices will be allowed.

The new law makes text messaging and handheld cell phone use while driving primary offenses. While text messaging will be subject to primary enforcement as of July 1, the cell phone enforcement will be limited to secondary status for another year. That means police will need another reason to stop and cite motorists using handheld cell phones until July 1, 2013.

Legislative leaders requested legislation indicated their intention was to immediately crack down on texting — widely seen as the more dangerous practice — while giving cell phoning drivers some time to adjust to the new distracted driving laws.

Children, Summer Heat, and Vehicles: a DEADLY Combination



Life Lost—True!

Recently while temperatures soared upwards of 100 degrees in McDowell County the national news also reported two children that were left unattended in vehicles and one of the children died. West Virginia does not have a specific law addressing unattended children in cars. Please note, however, that even if a state does not have a specific law prohibiting adults from leaving children unattended, state and local prosecutors have the discretion to criminally charge adults under existing child endangerment laws. On average, 38 children die in hot cars each year from heat-related deaths after being trapped inside motor vehicles. Even the best of parents or caregivers can overlook a sleeping baby in a car; and the end result can be injury or even death

Reasons for children being left include: 1.) unknowingly left in vehicle: **54.25%**; 2.) knowingly left in vehicle: **11.94%**; 3.) child got into vehicle on their own: **31.58%** and 4.) circumstance unknown: **1.82%**. **Eighty seven percent (87%)** of children who have died from vehicular heat stroke are **age 3 and younger**.

KidsAndCars.org believes the solution to these preventable tragedies is a combination of education and technology. Raising public awareness that this can happen to anyone is imperative and that the results of a momentary lapse of memory can be deadly. KidsAndCars.org would like all vehicles to come equipped with an alarm that would alert a driver if a child has been left in the vehicle.

Remember What Is Important — Don't Forget Them — Check Your Car!!!!!!

WV Immunization Requirement—7th & 12th Graders



Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, immunization requirements have changed.

Seventh graders must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of MCV4 (meningitis) vaccine. Twelfth graders also must show proof of a single dose of Tdap, plus a booster dose of MCV4 if the first dose of MCV4 was given before the child's 16th birthday. If the first dose was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose is not required. Children who are current with their adolescent shots may have already met the new requirements, however many have not.

The immunization schedule can be difficult for parents to understand, which is why an immunization/well child check-up is so important. Take your child to their doctor for a routine adolescent check-up to determine if your child's shots are current and meet the 2012-2013 school entry requirements. Children who are found to be missing shots can receive them during that visit. Children without a family doctor may visit the local health department for an immunization check-up.

Children without insurance or those with insurance that doesn't cover the cost of the immunization may participate in the Vaccines for Children program that provides free vaccine to children age 18 and under without any out-of-pocket expense to the parent.

Children enrolled with Medicaid or WVCHIP also receive state-supplied vaccines at no cost to the parent. If your child has already received these immunizations, please present a copy of your child's immunization record to their school nurse or county health department for entry into WVSIS. The school will use the WVSIS system to check that students entering 7th and 12th grades have met the immunization requirements. In

McDowell County you can contact the McDowell County Health Department, Wilcoe at 304-448-2174.

American Cancer Society Evening of Hope



As the sun sets at a Relay For Life event, luminaria lining the track illuminate the night and a hush falls over the event that had been filled with the sounds of celebration. Relay For Life participants, survivors and caregivers then gather together for the Luminaria Ceremony to remember loved ones lost to cancer and to honor those who have battled the disease.

As participants walk the track lined with luminara bags in reflection, a caregiver who has lost a loved one may find comfort from a fellow caregiver who has faced a similar loss. Meanwhile, a survivor gains hope and strength from others who have followed the same journey and survived. All resolve to keep fighting to save more lives so no more luminaria bear the names of those lost to the disease.

The McDowell County Luminaria Event is **August 4, 2012 from 5-9pm at the Gary Recreational Field.**

In memory and in honor luminarias are available for purchase. There will be games – frozen t-shirt contest, egg toss, limbo, hula hoop contest, cake walk.

For more information, call Mary Lou Odum at 304-436-4112.

First-Time Teen Alcohol, Drug Use Peaks in Summer

Youths More Likely to Try Alcohol, Cigarettes, and Other Drugs During Summer Months

By Jennifer Warner
WebMD Health News

Reviewed by Louise Chang, MD

July 3, 2012 -- Teens are much more likely to try alcohol, cigarettes, and other drugs for the first time during the summer months, according to a new survey.

Researchers found first-time use of these substances, as well as marijuana and hallucinogens, peaks during June and July, with thousands more youths trying them each day compared to other months.

For example, on an average day in June or July, more than 11,000 teens aged 12 to 17 try alcohol for the first time, compared with averages of about 5,000-8,000 first-time users in most other months. December was the only other month with a similar peak in first-time alcohol use.

"More free time and less adult supervision can make the summer-time an exciting time for many young people, but it can also increase the likelihood of exposure to the dangers of substance abuse," Pamela S. Hyde, administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which conducted the study, says in a news release.

Slideshow: Sugar -- The Other Teen Drinking Problem

Risky Summer Experimentation

In the study, researchers analyzed information from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health from

2002-2010. The survey asked participants between the ages of 12 and 17 when they first used alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other substances.

The results showed first-time use of all alcohol, tobacco products, marijuana, hallucinogens, and inhalants peaked dramatically in June or July.



For example, on an average day in June or July:

1. More than 5,000 youths smoked cigarettes for the first time, compared with averages of about 3,000 to 4,000 new users in other months.
2. More than 4,800 youths smoked marijuana for the first time, compared with a daily average of about 3,000 to 4,000 in other months.
3. More than 1,500 youths used hallucinogens for the first time, compared with averages of about 1,100 to 1,400 per day in other months.

First-time use of inhalants also peaked in July, with more than 1,800 new users on average per day, compared with about 1,100

to 1,700 new users each day in other months.

Researchers found youths were most likely to try alcohol for the first time in July, with 11,598 new users, followed by December (11,432) and June (11,123), compared with monthly averages around 5,000 to 8,000 in other months.

The only substances that did not have higher rates of first-time users during the summer months were cocaine and prescription pain drugs used for non-medical reasons.

Researchers say the summer months are a time when teens are on break from school and may have more idle time, fewer responsibilities, and less adult supervision.

"That is why it is critically important to take every opportunity we can throughout the year to talk to our young people about the real risks of substance abuse and effective measures for avoiding it, so they will be informed and capable of making the right decisions on their own," Hyde says. *****

In McDowell County teens participating in a recent focus group revealed that there are many parent hosted alcohol parties. Make sure you know where your child is spending their time and if alcohol is going to be available —

it is illegal to host alcohol parties for youth.



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FACES Meeting: 2nd
Thursday of each month at
noon —open to the public.

HOPE Meeting: 4th Monday at
10:30 a.m.—open to the public.

Community Collaborative
Team: 4th Monday at 12:00
noon —open to the public.

Location: FACES Office

This newsletter
brought to you by funds
from the WV DHHR.

Dog Days of Summer



The Old Farmer's Almanac lists the traditional timing of the Dog Days as the 40 days beginning July 3 and ending August 11, coinciding with the ancient heliacal (at sunrise) rising of the Dog Star, Sirius. These are the days of the year when rainfall is at its lowest levels. The heat is because of the tilt of the earth not Sirius.

Remember to take care of your pets during the hot summer months, making sure they have plenty of water and a place to be cool.

Laundry Pods—Dangerous



CHARLESTON, WV – The West Virginia Poison Center is urging parents and caregivers to keep highly concentrated “single dose packs” of laundry detergent up and away from children.

Poison centers around the country are reporting a recent increase in calls about exposures of children to laundry detergents packaged in small, single-dose packets. “Because the packets are colorful and squishy, they are attractive to children. They can be mistaken for candy or something fun to play with,”

said Carissa McBurney, Community Outreach Coordinator for the West Virginia Poison Center.

However, some young children and toddlers who have put these small packets into their mouths and swallowed some of the detergent have become very ill and have required hospitalization. Other children have gotten the product in their eyes, resulting in significant eye injury.

Poison centers receive many calls each year about children getting into laundry detergent. Usually, swallowing laundry detergent causes mild stomach upset or even no symptoms. Poison center experts say the new laundry packets seem to be different. Some children exposed to them experience excessive vomiting, wheezing and gasping. Some get very sleepy. Some even have had trouble breathing and have needed a ventilator to help them breathe.

The West Virginia Poison Center recommends the following:

- Always keep detergents locked up and out of the reach of children.
- Make it a habit to put laundry products away when you have finished using them.
- Follow the instructions on the product label.
- If you think a child has been exposed to a laundry detergent packet, call the West Virginia Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.

About the West Virginia Poison Center: The West Virginia Poison Center provides comprehensive emergency poison information, prevention and educational resources to West Virginians 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The WVPC is staffed by nurses, pharmacists and physicians with special training in treatment of poisonings. Located in Charleston, WV, the WVPC is a part of the West Virginia University-Charleston Division. Toll-free: 1-800-222-1222. Website: www.wvpoisoncenter.org.

For more information, the media may contact Carissa McBurney, Community Outreach Coordinator, at 304.347.1379, 304.552.6338 (cell phone) or cmcburney@hsc.wvu.edu <<mailto:cmcburney@hsc.wvu.edu>>.