



The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland NEWSLETTER

PROTECTING & IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH

February/March 2010

Influenza A (H1N1) Update

On 25 February the Scottish Government announced that Health Protection Scotland reported that 1,540 people with influenza A (H1N1) have been hospitalised since the start of the outbreak and that there have been 68 deaths linked to the outbreak. Further advice and guidance is available from the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk.

Glasgow achieves 100th Eat Safe Award

The FSAS Eat Safe Award reached a significant milestone in Scotland last month with the presentation of the 100th award to a food business in the city. The award, for excellence in food hygiene and food safety, was presented at Glasgow City Chambers on 15 February to the ISS Integrated Services team from the Skypark office complex in Finnieston, Glasgow. The ISS team was nominated for the award by Environmental Health Officers from Glasgow City Council. The scheme has been well received in Glasgow, the largest city in Scotland, and reaching the 100 landmark should encourage catering establishments across the country to strive for the high standards associated with the scheme. Presenting the award, Jim Thomson, Assistant Director of FSA Scotland, congratulated ISS on its achievements and thanked Glasgow City Council for its ongoing support in implementing the scheme across the city. The Eat Safe Award was launched by the FSA in Northern Ireland in 2003 and rolled out across Scotland in 2005, with the aim of improving public confidence and consumer choice in catering establishments across the country. Further information on Eat Safe Awards is available from the FSA website www.food.gov.uk.

Blood donation by Maltese EHOs

A group of 25 Environmental Health Officers from the Department for Environmental Health recently donated blood, as a noble gesture. This initiative was proposed by the Malta Association of Environmental Health Officers, and it was fully supported by the Department for Environmental Health. Parliamentary Secretary Joe Cassar was present at this event and praised the group of donors for this humanitarian contribution. Dr Cassar also encouraged other governmental departments and entities to follow the example of EHOs, and take the initiative of organising similar group activities.

REHIS - 135th Birthday!

The Institute will mark its 135th birthday with the launch of an essay competition for students on accredited environmental health degree courses across the globe. Bernard Forteath and Tom Bell will progress the proposal in association with the International Federation of Environmental Health. Further details will be announced in due course.

The Crofton Award

The Crofton Award was launched by the Institute in partnership with ASH Scotland last year to recognise the contribution young people in Scotland make towards reducing the harm caused by tobacco. Last year we were delighted to announce that the winning group was W-WEST (www.w-west.org.uk) from Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The runners-up were LANDED Peer Education Service www.landed.info from Motherwell in Lanarkshire. Both groups received their awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony in

Edinburgh last November. The Institute is delighted to announce that the award will be run again this year and for the following two years. Full information on the application process will be available on the ASH Scotland and REHIS websites from August. The award is named after Sir John and Lady Eileen Crofton, both pioneers in tobacco control. Sadly, Sir John died a few days before the awards ceremony.



REHIS has moved!

The Institute has moved into its recently acquired office accommodation and renovations are nearing completion. Please note that the new address and contact details are as follows: 19 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HX; telephone number is 0131 229 2968; and fax number is 0131 228 2926.



HSE encourage employers to reduce death and injury in the workplace

Employers are being encouraged to get their employees more involved in health and safety in a bid to reduce injury and ill health. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) new campaign *do your bit* is in response to workplace research which provides evidence to suggest that involving workers has a positive effect on health and safety performance. The *do your bit* campaign is a year long initiative offering free or subsidised training courses to help businesses get their employees more involved in improving their health and safety. To support the campaign, HSE has launched a new website which provides practical advice and materials for businesses and details of the upcoming series of training opportunities. Further advice and guidance is available from the HSE website www.hse.gov.uk.

New Tobacco Controls for Scotland

On Wednesday 27 January the Scottish Parliament voted by a majority of 108 to 15 in favour of the Tobacco and Primary Medical Services (Scotland) Bill. The measures that will be introduced in Scotland include an end to the promotional display of tobacco brands in retail outlets, for larger retailers in 2011 and for smaller retailers in 2013; a requirement for those selling tobacco to be on a central register by 2011 with the offence of selling tobacco without being registered having a penalty of a fine of up to £20,000 or 6 months in jail; an end to the sale of cigarettes through self-service vending machines

in October 2011; the offence of proxy purchase of tobacco by adults for those under 18 is created with penalty of a fine up to £5,000; the offence of under 18s attempting to buy cigarettes is created with those over 16 facing a fine of up to £1,000; police have the power to confiscate tobacco from under 18s in a public place; enforcement officers have new powers to issue fixed penalty fines for breaches of the law; enforcement officers can seek a banning order (to a maximum of 24 months) from a sheriff if more than three enforcement actions have been issued; those banned from selling tobacco must display a notice stating they are banned. REHIS fully supports the introduction of these controls.

Vision for carbon capture

A plan to position Scotland as the world leader in carbon capture and storage (CCS) has been published. The carbon capture and storage roadmap, produced by the Scottish Government and Scottish Enterprise, is a comprehensive set of actions to put Scotland at the forefront of CCS development. These include: setting out a vision for CCS in Scotland including aiming to develop a number of demonstration projects; maximising EU and UK support for Scottish ambitions; developing of an offshore carbon licensing regime; and the identification of the skills and training needs to match industry demand. The Scottish Government has contributed £75,000 towards a Scottish Centre for Carbon Storage study to identify potential sites in the North Sea where carbon dioxide can be stored safely. Further advice and guidance is available from the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk.

REHIS Annual Conference 2010

The Conference this year will be held at the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew on 19 and 20 May and the recently launched programme features presentations by Dr Harry Burns, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, and Professor Hugh Pennington. Topics to be covered include food safety, Influenza A (H1N1), carbon monoxide, protecting our armed forces in combat zones, international environmental health, The Public Health (Scotland) Act 2008, cryptosporidium and the education and training of environmental health professionals. For further information please contact the REHIS office.

Forthcoming events

Noise and Nuisance Workshop, 30 March, Falkirk (*for further information, please contact the Environmental Protection UK - Scottish Division office www.environmental-protection.org.uk*)

Practical Noise Measurement Courses, 12 to 15 April, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (*for further information please visit www.strath.ac.uk/dlcs/cpd/courses*)

All Ireland Environmental Health Forum, 13 and 14 May, Athlone, Ireland

REHIS Annual Conference, 19 and 20 May 2010, Renfrew

2nd All Africa Conference on Environmental Health, 24 to 28 May, Lilongwe, Malawi

11th World Congress on Environmental Health, 5 to 10 September 2010, Vancouver, Canada

If you wish to feature any Environmental Health or Public Health initiative, event or activity in the REHIS Newsletter, please contact Tom Bell, Chief Executive, on 0131 229 2968 or tb@rehis.com