

# DC Healthy Homes Digest



January 2020 • *DOEE at CDC* | *DOEE and DCRA Partner on Permit Reviews* | *Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance* | *Radon Action Month* | *Lead Week and Weatherization Day Recap*

## WELCOME TO THE DC HEALTHY HOMES DIGEST!

This publication connects you to organizations and community members dedicated to creating and maintaining safe, healthy, and energy-efficient housing in the District of Columbia. *Subscribe to the DC Healthy Homes Digest and forward it to your colleagues!*

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## Events



American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Learning Collaborative on Lead Exposure

## DOEE Presents at CDC's Annual Lead Meeting

### WHAT'S DATA GOT TO DO WITH IT?

• When protecting children from lead, the answer is “everything.” That was the message the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) shared with federal, state, and local officials at the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Annual Cooperative Agreement Recipients' Meeting held by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on December 8-12, 2019 in Atlanta, GA. DOEE's presentation, “From Surveillance to Action: Working Toward Compliance with Blood Lead Testing Requirements in the District of Columbia,” illustrated the critical role of surveillance in advancing the District's goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning.



DOEE presenters Emmanuel C. Ofoche, PhD; Lakisa Blocker, PhD, MPH; and Lisa A. Gilmore, MBA, MSW; with CDC's Kimball F. Credle MPH

DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division

Deadline to apply: January 15, 2020

AAP is recruiting up to 20 primary care practices under Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) to join a seven-month learning collaborative aimed at improving access to quality health care for children affected by lead exposure. AAP will ask practices to identify a multi-disciplinary team to participate in the program and adhere to the quality improvement framework. ECHO sessions will run from January through July 2020 and take place via video conference every fourth Thursday of the month from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm ET. This program offers Continuing Medical Education (CME), Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part 2, and MOC Part 4 credit to participants. Please complete the [AAP Lead Testing ECHO application](#). For questions, contact Shannon Limjuco at [slimjuco@aap.org](mailto:slimjuco@aap.org).



### **DCRA Workshop: Getting a Business License for Your Rental Property**

Thursday, January 30, 2020, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm

DCRA, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room 200, Washington, DC 20024

Did you know that the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) requires Residential Housing licenses for all rental properties in the District, including homes, apartments, condominiums, basement apartments and apartment buildings? DCRA responds to licensing issues daily. Whether the complaint is about the number of persons dwelling in the unit exceeding the space or the safety of a rental unit, being licensed ensures the safety of all tenants in the District. Join DCRA's licensing staff to learn more and receive on-site assistance with the Residential Housing Rental licensing process.

[Register for the DCRA Licensing Your Rental Property Workshop](#)



National Environmental Leadership Award  
in Asthma Management

(LSHHD) receives funding from CDC to conduct childhood lead surveillance. DOEE uses the surveillance data to identify and assist lead-exposed children and their families. CDC funding also allows LSHHD to conduct outreach and improve compliance with the District's universal lead screening requirements.

District law requires blood lead screening for all District children at ages 6-14 months and 22-26 months. Children not tested by age 26 months must get two catch-up screening tests, at least twelve months apart, by six years of age. A blood test is the only way to know if a child is being exposed to lead.

"The good news," declared Lisa A. Gilmore, LSHHD's Branch Chief for Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing, "is that lead cases have continued to decline in the District. Among District children below six years of age tested for lead in Fiscal Years 2016-2019, less than 1% had levels at or above CDC's reference value for lead exposure of five micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood." Nevertheless, she cautioned, there's more work to be done. Compliance with required childhood lead screening is lower in Wards 3, 5, 7, and 8 than in the District's other four wards. DOEE's LSHHD shares data analysis with partners to mobilize collective action to increase lead screening, particularly in communities at higher risk from lead hazards.

DOEE's LSHHD also promotes and enforces compliance with the [District's lead laws](#), which are among the strongest in the country. The District's legal requirements include:

- Universal childhood lead screening and reporting;
- Disclosure of lead-based paint, pipes, and plumbing;
- Certification from DOEE for individuals and companies to perform a lead-based paint activity, such as a clearance examination or renovation; and
- Use of lead-safe work practices by individuals, businesses, and owners.

Furthermore, the LSHHD administers a program to reduce lead exposure risk from drinking water sources in child development facilities, led by Dr. Lakisa Blocker, Branch Chief for Licensing and Certification. "During Fiscal Year 2019," Dr. Blocker reported, "the program sampled potable water sources at all 487 licensed childcare facilities in the District, tagging as 'do not drink' 24 water sources with lead levels of five parts per billion." "Moreover," she noted, "DOEE is installing water filters on every drinking water source at all 487 child development facilities."

## National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management

Deadline to apply: January 31, 2020

EPA is now accepting applications for the National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management. In lieu of applicant categories, the simplified award application for 2020 focuses on components of whole-community asthma care systems that coordinate public health, housing, environment, clinical care, health care, and community partners to deliver comprehensive care at scale. Award winners will join a community of exceptional programs featured on [AsthmaCommunityNetwork.org](https://www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org) and will be honored in Washington, DC in May 2020. Previous winners can be found online in the [Hall of Fame](#).

[Apply for EPA's National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management](#)

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### Request for Public Comments: Proposed Revisions to EPA's Lead and Copper Rule

Deadline to comment: February 12, 2020

The EPA has proposed regulatory revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for lead and copper under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The revisions proposed on November 13, 2019 under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300-0001 are currently open for public comment. [Comments on the proposed EPA Lead and Copper Rule revisions must be received on or before February 12, 2020.](#)

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### National Nurse-Led Care Consortium's Webinar Series

The National Nurse-Led Care Consortium (NNCC), a Public Health Management Corporation affiliate organization, recently hosted a webinar series on environmental health concerns for vulnerable populations, with a focus on public housing residents. NNCC presented the series in four parts: Part 1: Best Practices to Prevent Lead Poisoning, Part 2: Strategies for Improved Indoor Air

At the session's end, Emmanuel C. Ofoche, PhD, LSHHD's Environmental Specialist, joined his two co-presenters in answering participants' questions. Dr. Ofoche presented at the previous year's CDC meeting on DOEE's successful collaboration with CDC to resolve two DOEE-identified bugs in CDC's data management application. As detailed in [December 2018's DC Healthy Homes Digest](#), the fixes resulted in more accurate reporting of the nation's child lead surveillance data.

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## DOEE is Open for Business at DCRA Permit Center

**DOEE AND DCRA PARTNER ON PERMIT REVIEWS** • DOEE inspectors are available at Station 27 of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) Permit Center to assist homeowners and contractors whose projects may require a DOEE-issued Lead Abatement or Renovation Permit. DOEE and DCRA are working to ensure the use of lead-safe work practices during the renovation, construction, or demolition of properties built before 1978. The District requires DOEE-issued permits for lead abatement projects in pre-1978 residential dwellings and child-occupied facilities, certain home renovation project, and raze or demolition projects in pre-1978 buildings within 100 feet of a child-occupied facility.



To meet with a DOEE representative, visit Station 27 at the DCRA Permit Center, 1140 4th Street SW, Washington, DC 20024 during the following hours: Monday: 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, Tuesday: 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, Wednesday: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Thursday: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. You may also [submit your DOEE permit application online](#). For more information on preventing lead exposure and lead-safe work practices, contact DOEE at 202-535-1934 or [download the Renovate Right! Tip Sheet for Preventing Lead Exposure](#). For more information, [submit a question](#) or call DOEE at (202) 535-1934.

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## New Lead Water Pipe

Quality and Resident Health, Part 3: Climate Change and Considerations for Health Care, and Part 4: Exploring Neighborhood Factors that Impact Health.

[Watch all four NNCC webinars on the Intersection of the Environment, Housing, and Health](#)



### Allergy & Asthma Day Capitol Hill 2020

Save the date: May 6, 2020

May 6, 2020 is the date for the [Allergy & Asthma Network's Allergy & Asthma Day Capitol Hill 2020](#). Last year, more than 100 patients, caregivers, advocates, health care professionals, industry leaders, and researchers came together from across the county to discuss critical legislative and regulatory issues facing patients living with asthma and allergies. This year's event will include a 35th anniversary celebration and gala.

### Connect with the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative

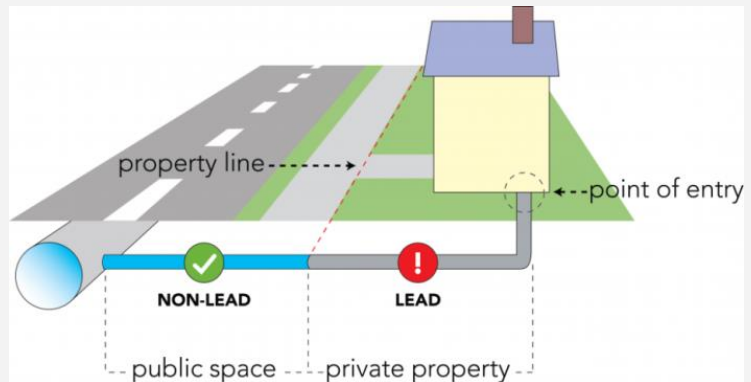
The [DC Healthy Housing Collaborative](#) is a multi-sector coalition seeking to address substandard housing conditions that contribute to significant health issues affecting District residents. [Sign up to stay connected to the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative and complete the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative Membership Survey](#). For more information about the DC Healthy Housing Collaborative, contact Abby Charles at the Institute for Public Health Innovation by email at [acharles@institutephi.org](mailto:acharles@institutephi.org) or by telephone at (202) 400-3555.



Join the DC Asthma Coalition's Fight Against Asthma

## Replacement Programs

**REDUCING COSTS FOR ELIGIBLE PROPERTY OWNERS** • On October 10, 2019, Mayor Muriel Bowser launched the [Lead Pipe Replacement Assistance Program](#) (LPRAP). Co-administered by DOEE'S Affordability & Efficiency Division and DC Water, LPRAP offers financial assistance to District property owners for lead pipe replacement on private property if the pipe in the public space is not lead. [Learn more by visiting LPRAP](#) or email [leadline.replacement@dc.gov](mailto:leadline.replacement@dc.gov).



In a separate program, DC Water has funds to cover the complete cost of lead water service pipe replacement on private property when it replaces the portion of lead pipe in public space during a capital improvement project. DC Water will notify property owners of upcoming projects in their area. Finally, if there are no scheduled capital improvement projects for two years, and both public and private portions of the service pipe are lead, property owners can apply for DC Water's [Voluntary Lead Service Pipe Replacement Program](#). To learn more, call DC Water at (202) 354-3600 or email [leadtest@dcwater.com](mailto:leadtest@dcwater.com).



DC Water promotes the District's lead service line replacement programs at the Navy Yard Metro Station on October 24, 2019.

## What's Buzzing at DOEE?

The [DC Asthma Coalition](#) is a community partnership of local citizens, health care providers, and nonprofit organizations united to fight asthma in the District of Columbia. [Complete a DC Asthma Coalition Membership Application](#) to join or [contact the DC Asthma Coalition](#) to learn more.



### National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The [National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition](#) (NSHHC) is a broad, voluntary coalition of more 400 organizations working to improve housing conditions nationwide through education and outreach to key national stakeholders and federal public decision makers. The coalition promotes policies for safe and healthy housing in the United States, with special emphasis on those who are disproportionately impacted.



### Habitat for Humanity Celebrates 30th Anniversary

[Habitat for Humanity](#) is celebrating 30 years of creating safe and affordable housing for families in need across the U.S. Habitat for Humanity constructs new housing and renovates existing homes in many communities, particularly in urban areas. The organization offers a variety of [opportunities to volunteer](#) both locally and globally.



**TAKE ACTION AGAINST RADON THIS JANUARY** • Do you know that your greatest exposure to radon may be where you spend most of your time —at home? You can't see, smell, or taste radon. However, this naturally-occurring radioactive gas is a major cause of lung cancer, second only to cigarette smoking. Radon gas is produced by a breakdown of uranium in soil, rock, and water. Radon gas then moves up through the ground into the air and penetrates your home through cracks and other holes in the foundation. Testing is the only way to determine your home's radon levels.

That's why DOEE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are using [National Radon Action Month](#) to share information about how to test for radon and what to do if the test detects a high radon level in your home. Testing your home for radon is as simple as opening a package, placing a radon detector in a designated area, and after the prescribed number of days, sealing the detector back in the package. Fixing a radon problem is usually just a matter of caulking cracks along basement foundations, sealing leaks around pipes, and taking other steps to prevent radon from entering the house through places where it is in contact with the ground.

[Visit DOEE's Radon webpage to learn more about radon testing](#), or call the Radon Hotline at (202) 535-2302.

**DOEE AND DGS HELP RESIDENTS GET THE FACTS ABOUT LEAD** • DOEE and the Department of General Services (DGS) kicked off [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week \(NLPPW\) in the District](#) on Monday, October 21, 2019 at the Columbia Heights Metro Station in Ward 1. Staff from the two agencies greeted commuters with fun activities and facts about detecting and preventing exposure to lead. The next day, DOEE staff delivered 230 reusable bags filled with lead prevention materials for families to eight child development facilities in Wards 7 and 8. More than a third of District children below five years of age live in Wards 7 and 8.



Stay up to date on all things Healthy Housing in the District. [Subscribe](#) and forward to your colleagues!

For questions, comments or additions, [contact our Editor](#).

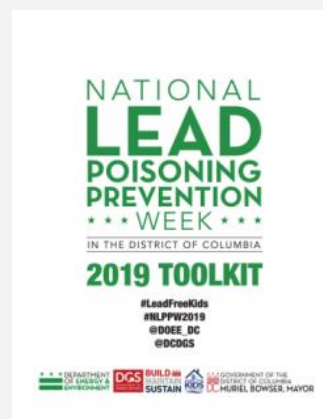
Want to get more involved? Contact the [Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division](#), (202) 535-2600

Media Inquiries: Contact the [DOEE Public Information Officer](#)

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During the week, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, Central American Resource Center, Institute for Public Health Innovation, and other District partners joined DOEE and DGS in posting tips and resources about lead on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. On October 22 and 31, respectively, DOEE engaged in Twitter chats hosted by the National Healthy Housing Center (#NLPPWchat) and the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (#EndLeadPoisoning). Use hashtags #NLPPW2019 and #leadfreekids to join the ongoing conversation @DOEE\_DC.



DOEE also distributed its second annual [NLPPW in the District of Columbia Toolkit](#) to more than 1,500 contacts in District Government agencies and community- and faith-based organizations. Black Millennials for Flint also released a [NLPPW Social Media Campaign Guide](#) developed by young

leaders in its Lead Prevention Ambassador Program to promote action against lead in African American and Latino communities in the District and across the country.

Finally, DOEE and Department of Health Care Finance jointly issued their annual [Lead Screening Letter to Medicaid Providers](#) on the District's legal requirements for lead screening and reporting. More information about lead for [parents](#), [health care providers](#), [property owners](#), and [contractors](#) is available from [DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division](#).

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### DOEE'S GRANTEES CLOSE THE YEAR WITH LEAD

**OUTREACH EVENTS** • DOEE's four grantees, funded through a cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, brought Fiscal Year 2019 to a close with a series of events for target audiences.

#### American Academy of Pediatrics, District of Columbia Chapter (DC AAP):

At its September 12, 2019 symposium for

pediatric providers, DC AAP kicked off a quality improvement

collaborative to increase lead screening in the District. DC AAP also unveiled its DOEE-funded initiative, the *TextMe: DC Kids Lead Test Reminder Program*. The program sends enrolled caregivers text reminders when their child is due for their first and second blood lead screening tests. To learn more, email DC AAP at [lead@aapdc.org](mailto:lead@aapdc.org).

**Innovative Strategies to Address Lead Poisoning**

Thursday  
September 12th  
3:00pm - 6:00pm  
Bus Boys & Poets  
425 Monroe St NE, Washington, DC

**EVENT SCHEDULE**  
Text for **KIDS** Lead Program 3:00p  
Networking & Happy Hour 4:30p  
DC AAP Business Meeting 6:00p

Please join D.C. Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics for an afternoon to learn about innovative strategies to address lead poisoning in the District of Columbia. This program will highlight the Chapter's Text for Kids, a program to send parents text reminders to have their child lead levels tested.

American Academy of Pediatrics  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHAPTER



#### Central American Resource Center (CARECEN):

CARECEN continued to promote lead screening and prevention at its tenant association meetings, one-on-one housing counseling sessions, and workshops, including a financial workshop conducted at the Spanish Catholic Center on August 22, 2019. CARECEN also distributed informational brochures about lead at Ward 5's Mundo Verde Bilingual Public Charter School and DC Bilingual Public Charter School.

**Ethiopian Community Center, Inc. (ECC):** ECC held its Feedel Community Celebration on Saturday September 28, 2019 at the Park View Recreation Center in Ward 1. The event featured children's activities, games, and giveaways, ECC conducted information sessions for parents and other adults on workers' rights, language access rights, and lead safety and prevention methods, centered around a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.



**Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC):** On September 14, 2019 LEDC hosted a Homeowner Carnival for homeowners at the Festival Center in Ward 1. At the

family-friendly event, residents learned about home maintenance, lead-safe work practices, going solar, and more.

## Resources You Can Use

**EPA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT (DEADLINE: JANUARY 6, 2020)** • The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making up to \$3 million in total funding available for locally-focused environmental education projects aimed at increasing public awareness on environmental matters and enhancing participants' abilities to make informed decisions on environmental issues. EPA will award three to four grants in each of the agency's ten regions. For full information, visit [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and search for Opportunity Number EPA-EE-20-XX, where XX is your [EPA Region](#) (for example, EPA-EE-20-01 for Region 1 and so on, through EPA Region 10). For any difficulties in accessing the electronic announcement, email Michael Band at [EEGrants@EPA.gov](mailto:EEGrants@EPA.gov).

**EPA FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PROGRAM (DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 7, 2020)** • EPA's Office of Environmental Justice will provide funding to support ten awards (one award per region) of up to \$120,000 per award for a two-year project period. EPA will award cooperative agreements to local community-based organizations, tribes, and tribal organizations seeking to address environmental and public health concerns in local underserved communities through collaboration with



other stakeholders, such as local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, and academia. Eligible projects must demonstrate use of EPA's Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Model during the project period. For more information, including a schedule of pre-application assistance calls, visit [EPA's FY 2020 EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving webpage](#) and [funding opportunity announcement EPA-OP-OEJ-20-01 on Grants.gov](#).

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**AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION  
RELEASES ASTHMA TRENDS  
REPORT**



• The American Lung Association's latest [Asthma Trends Brief](#) provides data on asthma prevalence, morbidity, and mortality among adults and children in the United States. According to the report, the District had the fifth highest prevalence of childhood asthma in the U.S. in 2018. Specifically, 11.4% of District children currently have asthma, compared with 7.9% of all U.S. children. Similarly, 11.6% of District adults currently have asthma versus 9.2% of adults nationally.

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**MAYOR'S HOUSING EQUITY REPORT**

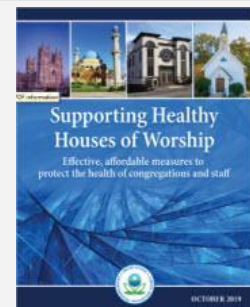
• On October 15, 2019, Mayor Muriel Bowser, with the DC Office of Planning, released the District's [Housing Equity Report: Creating Goals for Areas of Our City](#) and draft [Comprehensive Plan proposal](#). The Housing Equity Report makes Washington, DC among the first cities in the nation to create area-specific goals for affordable housing and to examine the unique barriers and opportunities within each area. The [Comprehensive Plan Draft Update](#) is up for public review through [January 10, 2020](#). Residents can email [plandc@dc.gov](mailto:plandc@dc.gov) with feedback or questions. The DC Office of Planning also encourages residents to coordinate comments through their [Advisory Neighborhood Commission \(ANC\)](#). The deadline for ANC comments is February 14, 2020.



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**NEW EPA BOOKLET SUPPORTS  
HEALTHY HOUSES OF  
WORSHIP**

• [Supporting Healthy Houses of Worship: Effective, Affordable Measures to Protect the Health of Congregations and Staff](#) provides information on actions places of worship can take to reduce environmental health risks. EPA notes that children are more vulnerable to many environmental risks than adults due to differences in behavior and biology that can lead to greater exposure and/or unique windows of susceptibility during children's development. The booklet provides recommendations for identifying and



addressing the most common types of environmental health concerns found in older facilities, including lead, mercury, mold, moisture, and radon.

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## Healthy Housing Happenings

### DOEE OBSERVES WEATHERIZATION DAY DURING OCTOBER'S ENERGY ACTION MONTH •



Did you know every dollar invested in the District's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) returns more than \$4 to residents in energy, health, and safety benefits? To help District residents achieve these benefits, DOEE's Energy Administration conducted a Weatherization Day event on October 29, 2019 at Noyes Park at 1000 Franklin Street NE. The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, Office of the People's Council, DC Sustainable Energy Utility, MANNA, Inc., Housing Counseling Services, Inc., and United Planning Organization joined DOEE in providing tips and resources for residents on how to maintain an energy-efficient, safe, and healthy home. [Go online to learn more about DOEE's weatherization and utility discount programs](#), or call 311 for more information.

**SPEAKING ABOUT MOLD •** Keith Keemer, Environmental Protection Specialist in DOEE's Lead-Safe and Healthy Housing Division, was the featured speaker at the Environmental Information Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter's Technical Presentation and Dinner on October 29, 2019. Mr. Keemer reviewed the District's mold regulations for the audience of building owners, property managers, contractors, and other professionals. [Visit DOEE for more information about the District's mold regulations](#) for tenants, owners, and mold professionals.

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## Community Connections

**DC CALLS IT QUILTS! WEEK'S TOBACCO CONTROL SUMMIT •** The [DC Tobacco Free Coalition](#) held a Tobacco Control Summit on September 26, 2019 at the Prince Hall Masonic Temple on U Street NW. Topics included health disparities and tobacco use, targeted marketing to racial and ethnic minority and other demographic groups, the rise of e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco among youth, and more. Among the featured speakers were Mary M. Cheh, councilmember from Ward 3; LaQuandra S. Nesbitt MD, MPH, director of the DC Health; and Phillip S. Gardiner, DrPH, co-chair of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council. The summit concluded with a call to action to protect children and youth from the dangers of tobacco use. Visit the

DC Tobacco Free Coalition for more information.



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

| [Help](#)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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