

## NEHA NEWS

**New Resources From NEHA**

The mission of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is to “advance the environmental health professional for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all.” NEHA endeavors to meet this mission through its many activities, programs, and resources. We wanted to share some of the new resources we’ve been working on to uphold our mission and support environmental health professionals.

**Policy Statements**

One of NEHA’s responsibilities is to speak up on issues of concern to our members, which it does through the adoption of policy statements. By publishing these statements, we strive to keep environmental health professionals informed about where NEHA stands as an association on issues critical to environmental health. All policies are approved by NEHA’s board of directors.

So far in 2018, NEHA has posted four new policy statements on ear piercing guns, microblading, food safety as related to the consumption of cannabis-infused food products, and comprehensive mosquito control. In 2017, policy statements were posted on the sale or distribution of raw milk, uniform and integrated food safety system adoption, the Model Aquatic Health Code, and climate change. We are currently working on policy statements related to cottage foods and renewable energy.

You can find NEHA’s policy statements at [www.neha.org/publications/position-papers](http://www.neha.org/publications/position-papers).

**Cannabis Resources**

The legalization of cannabis, be it medically or recreationally, is occurring in many states across the U.S. As of June 2018, 30 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the sale of medical cannabis and 9 states have legalized the sale of recreational cannabis. As such, there is a growing concern regarding the food safety of cannabis-infused products (edibles) and a need for resources for environmental health professionals to address this new issue. Many state and local food safety agencies currently need to quickly, effectively, and efficiently establish food safety programs around the legalized cannabis industry.

In the March 2018 *Journal of Environmental Health*, we highlighted several resources that were being created to address this need. We are happy to announce that these resources are now available.

- Cannabis 101: Glossary of Terms—This glossary details over 60 definitions and concepts that relate to cannabis-infused products. The resource helps food safety professionals and industry workers to understand and identify common terms and products when out in the field.
- Food Safety Guidance for Cannabis-Infused Products—This guidance document can be used as a reference to learn what other states have done in establishing food safety programs for the cannabis industry.

In addition to these resources, NEHA has also hosted several webinars on the topic. All these cannabis resources can be found at [www.neha.org/node/60143](http://www.neha.org/node/60143).

**Virtual Conferences**

NEHA has hosted several different virtual conferences over the past few years. Virtual conferences are a unique way for environmental health professional to exchange information and discover new solutions to current issues without having to travel outside of the office. Our past virtual conferences have included:

- Enhancing Environmental Health Knowledge (EEK): Vectors and Public Health Pests Virtual Conference ([www.neha.org/eeek-2018](http://www.neha.org/eeek-2018));
- EH<sub>2</sub>O Recreational Waters Virtual Conference ([www.neha.org/eh-topics/water-quality-0/eh2o-recreational-waters-virtual-conference](http://www.neha.org/eh-topics/water-quality-0/eh2o-recreational-waters-virtual-conference)); and
- Integrating Data to Empower Advancement (IDEA EH) Virtual Conference ([www.neha.org/eh-topics/informatics/idea-eh-virtual-conference](http://www.neha.org/eh-topics/informatics/idea-eh-virtual-conference)).

We are currently working on our next virtual conference—EnSafe: Ensuring Safety in Private Drinking Water Systems, October 16–17, 2018. The EnSafe Virtual Conference is designed to enhance the knowledge of environmental public health professionals and water safety specialists to help close the water quality gap in unregulated private drinking water. Registration is open and you can learn more at [www.neha.org/node/60151](http://www.neha.org/node/60151).

**New Food Manager and Handler Books**

NEHA is pleased to offer new editions of its *Professional Food Manager* and *Professional Food Handler* books. Both books have been updated to the Food and Drug Administration’s 2017 *Food Code*. The books help food managers and handlers learn about the food safety principles needed to ensure the continued successful execution of food safety best practices in the workplace. The books can also help qualified candidates prepare for food manager and handler certification exams. You can find the books in NEHA’s online store at [www.neha.org/store](http://www.neha.org/store).

**A Day in the Life Blog**

Did you know that NEHA has a Day in the Life of an Environmental Health Professional blog? We have posted 13 different blogs in 2018 for people to read and comment on. These blogs cover a wide variety of environmental health topics—emergency preparedness and disaster response to hurricanes and wildfires, responding to the opioid epidemic, food trucks, rapid population growth and smart development, the use of technology to create a food recovery app, and achieving health and social equity through housing.

The blog also spotlights NEHA members. The latest blog is a member spotlight on Clint Pinion, Jr., MPH, DrPH, RS. Pinion shares his passion for environmental health, working with students, and the value of NEHA membership in this blog. You can find this blog and all the others at [www.neha.org/membership-communities/get-involved/day-in-life](http://www.neha.org/membership-communities/get-involved/day-in-life).

As you can see, we’ve been busy at NEHA putting together these timely, relevant, and useful resources. Stay tuned as we continue to enhance and build upon the resources we offer! 🍷