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COVID-19 Resources

DHS

<https://dhs.iowa.gov/childcare-covid-19>

HCCI

<https://www.idph.iowa.gov/hcci/products>

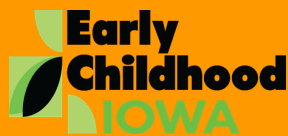
CCR&R

<https://iowaccrr.org/providers/links/resources2020/>

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Call your Child Care Nurse Consultant (CCNC) if you have any questions about child health and safety, or any special training needs.



<https://earlychildhood.iowa.gov/>

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Quality Care For Kids

A newsletter for Scott County Child Care Providers

Written by Heidi Hotvedt, RN BSN

NOVEMBER 2021

Bacteria Found in Aromatherapy Spray Sold in Iowa!

Testing at Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has identified the bacterial DNA of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* which causes melioidosis in the Better Homes and Gardens-branded Essential Oil Infused Aromatherapy Room Spray "Lavender & Chamomile" scent, manufactured in India. There have been four cases of melioidosis in both children and adults since March, two cases resulted in death. Based on CDC testing, the four cases closely match, indicating they all most likely share a common source of exposure.

The contaminated products were sold at Walmart between February and October 21, 2021, and was distributed in a limited number of stores and online nationwide. Out of abundance of caution, the five other scents under the same brand are no longer available for sale. A total of 225 of the implicated items were sold in Iowa.

CDC advises not to throw away the bottles or dispose of them yourself. The bacteria that causes melioidosis does not occur naturally in the U.S. It can also live for a very long time in soil, water, and probably even landfills. People who may have this product are asked to return it to Walmart. Walmart is working with CDC to develop a plan to ensure the bottles will be safely handled and destroyed.

Caring For Our Children standard 5.2.1.6 states that air fresheners or sanitizers (both manmade and natural) should not be used in child care. Children are the most vulnerable to toxic exposures. It is important that children are not exposed to potentially harmful or toxic substances even those that are considered "natural".

Eco-Healthy Child Care®

Eco-Healthy Child Care® (EHCC) is a national program of the Children's Environmental Health Network that partners with child care professionals to eliminate environmental hazards found in or around child care facilities. EHCC has free resources and fact sheets available on their website at <https://cehn.org/resources/for-child-care-professionals/>

EHCC also offers the *Protecting Children's Environmental Health* e-course available on the I-PoWeR DHS training registry. The 3-hour course provides practical and no-to-low cost strategies for preventing children and staff from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, plastics, and furnishings, among other hazards. To enroll in the course go to <https://ccmis.dhs.state.ia.us/trainingregistry/TrainingRegistry/Public/> and search for Eco-Healthy Child Care® - Protecting Children's Environmental Health.



**Eco-Healthy
Child Care®**