

Lead News for Healthcare Providers: Volume 4, Issue 1

SPRING 2019

Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office

NYS MAY LOWER BLOOD LEAD ACTION LEVEL TO 5 µg/dL



In the NYS Governor's FY 2020 budget are proposed changes to the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program:

- **Article VII Part 1** - is to amend the Public Health Law to change the definition of an elevated blood lead level in a child to 5 mcg/dL. Public Health Intervention for children exposed to lead will occur at a much lower blood lead level to protect children from further harm. The proposed amendment will have a fiscal impact and it is proposed there will be an increase in Article VI/General Public Health Work funds to meet the recommended public health actions.
- **Article VII Part 2** - is to amend the Public Health Law to create a rebuttable presentation that all paint in pre-1978 rental housing is lead-based paint. Local housing code enforcement agencies could choose to enforce these standards during their routine inspections of residential rental properties (pre-1978 structures) increasing the overall compliance with these requirements.

For more info see: www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy20/exec/index.html.

LEAD IN BABY FOOD: WHAT TO TELL PARENTS

While we often focus on paint, soil, and dust as sources of lead exposure, lead in a child's diet can also be an important source of exposure for children. These recent articles encourage parents to consult their child's pediatrician about lead in baby food - **Lead in food: A hidden health threat**

www.edf.org/health/lead-food-hidden-health-threat and **Heavy Metals in Baby Food: What You Need to Know** www.consumerreports.org/food-safety/heavy-metals-in-baby-food/. Do you feel comfortable counseling parents who come to you with questions about possible sources of lead in their child's food? Here is the Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) advice to help as a guide when talking with parents:



Eat healthy. Some foods, especially baby and toddler foods, are known to have detectable levels of lead in them. Reducing your child's exposure to lead is key. Give your child a well-balanced diet that includes a variety of foods that are high in calcium and iron and follow recommendations on [fruit juice](#). A good diet can help your child absorb less lead. www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Lead-Screening-for-Children.aspx

To receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact jenniferd_becker@urmc.rochester.edu

POINT OF CARE TESTING FOR BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN PHYSICIAN OFFICES

If you are considering using a blood lead point of care device in your office, please contact the NYSDOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at lppp@health.ny.gov or call 518-402-7600 for information about reporting the results to NYSDOH (10 NYCRR Subpart 67-3 requires all results be reported).

Kudos to **Accountable Health Partners (AHP)** for their extensive efforts to reduce barriers to blood lead testing for children! AHP's Lead Initiative started in March 2018 and is working to improve lead testing rates and provide education and resources for early detection, intervention and monitoring of every child with an elevated blood lead level. In the year since they launched, AHP has distributed over 30 blood lead point of care testing devices to primary health care providers in our region. They have also provided focused support in helping practices optimize use of these machines. See recent news about AHP's Lead Initiative on their website:

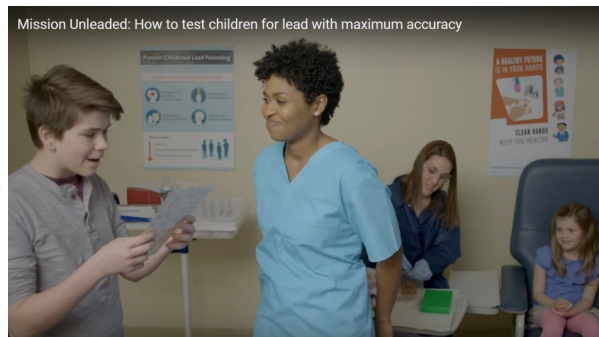
<https://ahpnetwork.com/promising-results-from-lead-initiative/>

<https://ahpnetwork.com/virdeejan19/>

NEW! BLOOD LEAD TESTING VIDEO TRAINING

Need to train new staff on how to get uncontaminated blood lead samples from children? ***Mission Unleaded: How to test children for lead with maximum accuracy*** is a great 18 minute video produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The video is available at either of these links:

- CDC website - www.cdc.gov/labstandards/videos/blood_lead_5_low_res.mp4
- YouTube - <https://youtu.be/g2p2qREch9g>



NOT JUST FOR CHILDREN, POINT OF CARE TESTING CAN BENEFIT PREGNANT WOMEN TOO

A recent case in our region involving a newborn with lead poisoning at birth requiring chelation reminds us all about the importance of lead testing in pregnancy. OB and Family Medicine providers who serve pregnant women may use a blood lead point of care device to test pregnant women's blood lead levels when these women have risk factors for lead, although a venous sample analyzed by a laboratory approved by NYS for blood lead comprehensive toxicology is the preferred method. NYS public health law requires health care providers to ask questions of all pregnant women at their first prenatal visit to determine risk of lead exposure. If women answer yes to any of the questions, then a blood lead test is required. Some practices who have high risk populations order blood lead tests for all pregnant women. For more info see:

www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/pregnant_women.htm.



CONTINUING EDUCATION CORNER

Dr. Schaffer will teach about lead in pregnancy and lactation on March 20 noon-1pm during the **Finger Lakes Children's Environmental Health Center** first **Project ECHO session**. Project ECHO is like a "virtual grand rounds" and also includes a related case presentation. If you are interested in participation please register at https://is.gd/FLCEHC_ECHO_Registration. *The U of R School of Medicine and Dentistry designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™.*

The **Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (PEHSU) National Classroom** has six lead related CME activities including:

- It All Starts With Testing: Identifying Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels
- Lead Poisoning and Its Impact on School Readiness
- Marksmanship and Adolescent Youth Lead Exposure

See www.pehsuclassroom.net/learn/public/catalog/view/11 for more information.

COALITION NEWS

We are so grateful for all the work of lead coalitions in our region!

The **Chemung County Lead Coalition** continues to bring together individuals and organizations in their community on a monthly basis. They have formed 3 committees: Public Policy, Housing, and Resource Development. In addition to launching a public awareness campaign, they are preparing to apply for federal grant fund to assist in removal of lead hazards in the City of Elmira. Contact Rebecca Becraft for more information: rbecraft@chemungcountyny.gov.

Finger Lakes Coalition to



(585) 396-4343

Covers 8 counties: Chemung, Livingston, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, and Yates

www.bit.ly/FingerLakesLeadCoalition
Facebook @FingerLakesLeadCoalition

Kristina Knight (kknight@co.seneca.ny.us) from Seneca County Department of Public Health is the 2019 chairperson of the **Finger Lakes Coalition to Stop Lead Poisoning**, which meets every other month. Regular participants of the group are primarily local health department staff, and the Finger Lakes Coalition invites representation from other sectors (housing, education, legal) for greater effectiveness in lead poisoning prevention. The Coalition has created a Child Care Provider Toolkit which is adaptable for use in any of its counties. Contact Ann Murphy for more information about this toolkit: amurphy@yatescounty.org.

The **Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning** has begun a new public awareness campaign focused on high risk neighborhoods in the City of Rochester. So when you are driving around Rochester you can see billboards urging parents to have their children tested for lead and also providing a number to call for a free home inspection for lead.



Each of these coalitions also need participation from health care providers who are trusted voices in their community. We welcome your involvement in the lead coalition that serves your area.

NO LEVEL IS SAFE... PREVENT LEAD EXPOSURE IN CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN!

Need an update about lead poisoning and its management for your staff?

Have a question about a child or pregnant woman with lead exposure?

Contact us especially for advice managing patients with blood lead levels of 15 µg/dL or higher:



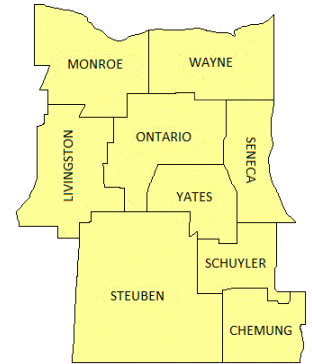
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Serving 9 counties in the Finger Lakes Region

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www.Golisano.URMC.edu/lead-poisoning

Supported by the NYS Department of Health

www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

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MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER



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