

## Lead News for Healthcare Providers: Volume 4, Issue 2

FALL 2019

Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office

### **PEDIATRIC GRAND ROUNDS ON LEAD INITIATIVES IN NYS — LIVESTREAMED OCT 23rd!**



Dr. Kristen Navarette, MD, MPH, FAAP is giving Pediatric Grand Rounds through the state to educate the medical community about "An Update on New York State Lead Initiatives and New Regulatory Requirements." Dr. Navarette is the Medical Director for the Center for Environmental Health at the NYS DOH and a board certified pediatrician. She has a faculty appointment as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the general pediatrics resident clinic at Albany Medical Center.

Dr. Navarette's Pediatric Grand Rounds in Rochester will be at Rochester General Hospital on Tuesday Oct 22, 8-9am, and at Strong Memorial Hospital on Wednesday Oct 23rd, 8-9am. If you are unable to attend in person, the presentation will be streamed live on Wed. Oct 23rd 8-9am. On that day, a link to the live presentation will appear on this page: [www.urmc.rochester.edu/pediatrics/grand-rounds/grand-rounds-schedule.aspx](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/pediatrics/grand-rounds/grand-rounds-schedule.aspx). Afterwards, the recording will be accessible from that page.

### **A RECENT CASE OF VERY HIGH BLOOD LEAD LEVEL**

While children's lead levels in the US have dropped significantly over the last 50 years, childhood lead poisoning is not going away. We recently had a child with the highest blood lead level Dr. Schaffer has seen since the Rochester Office of the WNY Lead Poisoning Resource Center began in the early 1990s. This child was one of six so far this year from our nine county region who needed hospitalization for lead chelation.



# NYS BLOOD LEAD ACTION LEVEL IS 5 µg/dL STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2019

NYS Public Health Law and regulations were amended to lower the definition of an elevated blood lead level in a child to 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), effective on October 1, 2019. Dr. Zucker, NYS DOH Commissioner, sent a letter to primary healthcare providers regarding these changes. If you missed it, a copy is posted on the NYS DOH Lead Poisoning Prevention website under **Information for Health Care Providers on Lead Poisoning Prevention and Management**.

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/docs/commissioner\\_letter\\_guidance\\_aug2019.pdf](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/docs/commissioner_letter_guidance_aug2019.pdf)

In addition to describing changes as of October 1st, it provides links to updated requirements for healthcare providers, revised risk assessment questions, and updated/new patient educational material. You need to know this information! Check it out at [https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/health\\_care\\_providers/index.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/health_care_providers/index.htm).

## WHAT IS CHANGING FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS?

NYS DOH has updated the *New York State Department of Health Guidelines for the Prevention, Identification, and Management of Lead Exposure in Children* for Health Care Providers. This update:

- ◆ Emphasizes reporting requirements for point-of-care blood lead test results
- ◆ Highlights the need to provide the parent or guardian of the child the result of the blood lead test
- ◆ Includes recommendations for determining if child is enrolled, or planning to be enrolled, in Medicaid, WIC, preschool/daycare, Early Intervention, Head Start, or kindergarten
- ◆ Changes to the risk assessment questions:
  - ◇ Emphasizes legal requirement for blood lead testing for children at or around 1 year and again at 2 years of age
  - ◇ Addresses living in or regularly visiting a building with elevated lead in drinking water
  - ◇ Identifies children diagnosed with a developmental disability and who exhibit behaviors that put them at risk for lead exposure
- ◆ Provides updated confirmatory and follow-up testing timeframes:
  - ◇ Stresses the need that confirmatory testing and follow-up samples be venous samples analyzed by a NYS approved lab for toxicology-blood lead-comprehensive testing
  - ◇ Confirmatory and follow-up testing now starting at 5 µg/dL (see chart)

- ◆ Directs providers to perform a Clinical Lead Exposure Assessment at blood lead levels ≥ 5 µg/dL, including:

- ◇ History
- ◇ Physical Exam
- ◇ Nutritional Assessment
- ◇ Developmental Assessment
- ◇ Laboratory Tests
- ◇ Referrals

BLL (µg/dL)	Confirmatory Test*	Follow-up Test
5 to <15	Within 3 months	Every 1 – 3 months
15 to <25	Within 1 week	Every month
25 to <45	Within 48 hours	Consult with RLRC
45 to <70	Within 24 hours	Consult with RLRC
≥70	Immediately	Consult with RLRC

\*if elevated capillary specimen

**Find details at:**

<https://www.health.ny.gov/publications/6671.pdf>

## NYS BLOOD LEAD ACTION LEVEL, Continued

### LEAD EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL HAS BEEN UPDATED - SPECIFIC LINKS ARE INCLUDED HERE:

As before, New York State Public Health Law and Regulations require health care providers to:

- Test all children at age 1 year and again at age 2 with a blood lead test.
- Assess all children ages 6 months to 6 years at every well child visit for risk of lead exposure and obtain a blood lead test if there is a positive response to ANY of the questions in **Does Your Child Need a Lead Test? (updated)** [www.health.ny.gov/publications/6670.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/6670.pdf)
- Report point-of-care blood lead test results to the New York State Department of Health in accordance with guidance [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/laboratories.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/laboratories.htm)
- Provide parent or guardian of the child the result of the blood lead test. **What Your Child's Blood Lead Test Means (updated)** [www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2526.pdf) provides helpful information to give parents along with the test results
- Provide anticipatory guidance to all parents or guardians of children as part of routine care, which may include the **Lead Poisoning is a Danger for Every Baby and Child** [www.health.ny.gov/publications/2594.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/publications/2594.pdf)

## COALITION NEWS

Our local coalitions are gearing up for national Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, Oct 20-26, 2019. Lead exposure is usually gradual and subtle, so it is important to continue to raise awareness among all groups of people. Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is a great time to focus attention on the issue.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program has updated material at their website - [www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/national-lead-poisoning-prevention-week.htm). In addition, the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning has created a social media toolkit they can share with others.

It takes a whole community to prevent lead poisoning. Grab a friend or colleague and get involved!

### Finger Lakes Coalition to Lead Poisoning

(585) 396-4343

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

[www.bit.ly/FingerLakesLeadCoalition](http://www.bit.ly/FingerLakesLeadCoalition)

Facebook @FingerLakesLeadCoalition



### Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

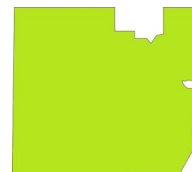
(585) 224-3125

[www.theleadcoalition.org/](http://www.theleadcoalition.org/)

Facebook @letsmakeleadhistory

### Chemung County Lead Coalition

Contact Rebecca Becraft:  
[rbecraft@chemungcountyny.gov](mailto:rbecraft@chemungcountyny.gov)



# 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:



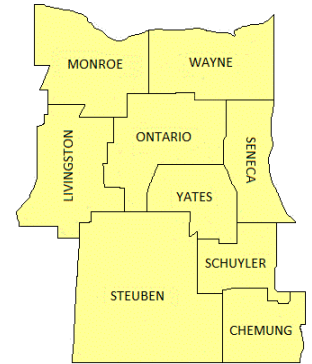
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Serving 9 counties in the Finger Lakes Region

To receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact [jenniferd\\_becker@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:jenniferd_becker@urmc.rochester.edu)

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Supported by the NYS Department of Health

[www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/)

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