

Lead News for Healthcare Providers: Volume 3, Issue 2

SUMMER 2018

Western NY Lead Poisoning Resource Center, Rochester Office

SUMMERTIME BRINGS HIGHER RISK OF LEAD EXPOSURE



Did you know that children are most likely to come into contact with lead in the summer months? In New York State and across the US, children's average blood lead levels tend to be higher in the summer months compared to winter.* Reasons include...

- Children are playing outside more on porches or in soil that contains lead
- Lead on old painted windows is scraped off or becomes a powder due to friction as the windows are opened and shut
- Dry summer winds stir up lead from the soil into the air and it can also get in the home
- Lead in pipes gets into water more easily in warmer weather

WHAT ADVICE CAN HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS GIVE PARENTS TO PREVENT LEAD POISONING THIS SUMMER?

1. Wash children's hands and toys often.
2. Keep your home clean by washing floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or a sponge with a solution of water and an all-purpose cleaner or a cleaner made specifically to clean up lead dust.
3. Leave shoes at the door so lead dust does not get trekked around the house.
4. Be aware of lead hazards and keep children away from them.
5. Healthy food is also important because children will digest more lead if they do not eat enough foods containing calcium and iron. Vitamin C helps them digest more iron, so foods containing Vitamin C should be part of their diet too.

**Seasonality and trend in blood lead levels of New York State children*

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC449716/>

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

POINT OF CARE TESTING FOR BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN PHYSICIAN OFFICES

Some of the accountable care organizations in our region have purchased Lead Care II machines for practices and are helping them institute its use. Requirements for these Physician Office Laboratories (POLs) include getting a CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) waiver and reporting blood lead test results electronically through the New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS)'s lead module within 14 business days of when the test is run. There are a number of steps a practice must take after receiving the CLIA waiver and before testing begins:



1. POLs must have a New York State Immunization Information System (NYSIIS) organization account and staff assigned to report blood lead test results must be added as users by the administrative user in the organization.
2. Enroll for reporting by contacting the NYSDOH Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LPPP) at 518-402-7600.
3. LPPP staff will fax or email instructions for reporting to a primary contact and to the CLIA certificate holder in the laboratory.
4. After enrollment with LPPP, at least one staff member must complete the recorded NYSIIS-Lead Module webinar training available online at: <http://nysdoh.webex.com>.
5. After viewing, contact DOH LPPP for access to NYSIIS lead data entry screen.

Local Health Department lead poisoning prevention programs appreciate being notified when a practice starts using Lead Care II and can advise on use.

For more details see:

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/health_care_providers/blood_lead_testing_reporting_guidance.htm

WHAT DOES AN ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL MEAN?

A blood lead level reflects the child's circulating blood lead at a single point in time. The half-life of lead in blood is only about 30 days. Children with long-term exposure may also have lead stored in their bones and soft tissues, however, and this can re-enter the bloodstream. Trends in children's blood lead levels can suggest whether exposure has been acute or chronic. Chronic exposure is more likely than acute exposure to result in long-term consequences even when that chronic exposure occurs in small amounts. There is no known "safe" level of lead in the body; health and behavior effects have been shown even below the current reference level of 5 µg/dL.

Not every child will have the same outcome for the same blood lead level. In addition to amount and length of exposure, factors influencing how lead will affect a child include individual genetic differences; timing of exposure (developmentally); and presence of protective factors such as nutrition, family support, and education.

To learn more and receive 3+ hours of continuing education credit (CME or CNE), check out this Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

Lead Toxicity course:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/csem/csem.asp?csem=34&po=0>



Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning

www.theleadcoalition.org/
(585) 224-3125

Covers Monroe County primarily

Finger Lakes Coalition to Stop Lead Poisoning

(585) 396-4343

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

A NEW LEAD COALITION!

There is a new lead coalition in our region. The Chemung County Department of Health is bringing together over 30 community organizations to reduce lead poisoning in Elmira. The Chemung County Lead Coalition meets quarterly, and a smaller Lead Working Group meets more frequently to prepare recommendations and strategies to address the problem while keeping the focus on the children and not the barriers.

We welcome your participation as a healthcare provider in a lead coalition that serves your community: Chemung County Lead Coalition, the Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning, and/or the Finger Lakes Coalition to Stop Lead Poisoning.

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:



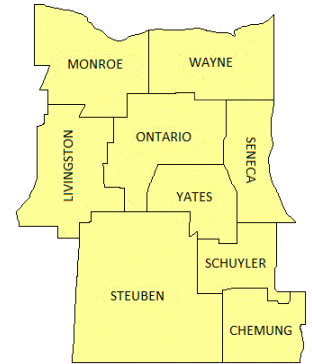
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Serving 9 counties in the Finger Lakes Region

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Supported by the NYS Department of Health
www.health.ny.gov/environmental/lead/

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