



Jackson County Health Department

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Creating Healthy Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *Lead Poisoning Prevention Week*

JACKSON COUNTY, MI – Jackson County Health Department is recognizing Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 23-29th, 2022) by offering presentations to groups, clubs, organizations; and sharing information on Lead Poisoning Prevention in the community through Facebook posts, Jackson County Health Department webpage and as requested through the mail.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (NLPPW) is a call to action for everyone from individuals to business, health care, non-profit, and local, state and federal government agencies to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness activities resulting in reducing childhood exposure to lead. Health care providers are encouraged to identify children at risk and discuss lead exposure with their parents and recommend and /or provide blood lead testing as well as provide referrals for additional services if needed.

The themes of the [2022 National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week](#) (NLPPW) are

1. **Get the Facts**
2. **Get Your Child Tested**
3. **Get Your Home Tested**



Parents are encouraged to learn as much as they can about lead and whether their children could be exposed to this harmful metal. There is no safe blood lead level (BLL) in children and even low levels of lead in blood can cause developmental delays, difficulty learning, behavioral issues, and neurological

Working together to create and promote a healthy community through disease prevention and control, health education, environmental protection and emergency preparedness.

damage. The effects of lead poisoning can be permanent and disabling. Children are most at risk to lead poisoning because their small bodies are going through the greatest amount of growth, particularly the central nervous system, during the 0-6 year age time and lead is easily absorbed into their small bodies. With proper nutrition, good hygiene and by following simple house cleaning rules, lead exposure and absorption can be greatly reduced.

The only way to know if a child has been exposed to lead is through a blood test. A capillary test or finger poke can be given to test the blood lead but if it is elevated above the current reference level of 3.5 micrograms/deciliter, then a follow-up venous (blood from a vein in the arm) would be required. Some physicians, will order a venous initially and skip the capillary step. Either way is okay. The important thing is to get tested, particularly if the child lives in a home built before 1978 or is on a Medicaid Health Plan. Michigan Medicaid requires all children be tested at 12 and 24 months of age, and for children between 36 and 72 months, who were not previously tested, to be tested at least once.

If you live in an older home built before 1978 or if you are thinking of buying an older home, consider having it tested for lead, especially before purchasing. This is really important if you have young children. This also applies to rental property. If you are renting and it is an older home, you may want to ask your landlord if it has ever been tested for lead or even if a child has ever lived in the home and tested high for lead. The [Michigan Lead Safe Home Program](#) (LSHP) may be an option for you to consider if you currently rent or own your home and you have a child under the age of 6 or a pregnant female living in the home. There is an income eligibility requirement also. They can do an assessment if you have a child with an elevated blood lead level.

If you are interested in a lead poisoning prevention presentation for your group, organization or office or if you are interested in information on providing lead testing in your office as a health care provider, please call (517) 768-2131.



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