



UPMC LEAD POISONING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM IN CENTRAL PA.

Lead poisoning is 100% preventable, but continues to sicken children in our communities. Even low levels of lead in the blood have been shown to cause multiple educational, behavioral, and medical problems, especially in children below age six. According to the CDC, only 18.7% of children under 72 months old were tested for lead in the United States in 2017.

Our program also will conduct a Healthy Homes Assessment checking for safety, pest, asthma, mold, and other issues that can cause illness.

Sources of lead poisoning

- Lead paint in/on homes built prior to 1978: paint does not have to be visibly chipping or peeling to be a hazard.
- Water, water pipes, lead solder on pipes
- Soil: dripline around house and/or bare soil may be lead hazards
- Bringing lead home from work: certain factories, construction, gun ranges, bridge painting
- Hobbies: ceramics, stained glass making, working with reclaimed wood
- Imported spices: especially turmeric, paprika and other bright red-hued spices
- Imported makeup: kohl, kajal, surma, sormeh, sindoor, kumkum, tikka
- Old or imported pottery

Effects of lead

- No amount of lead in the blood is safe
- The CDC recognizes children with blood lead levels greater than or equal to 3.5 mcg/dL (micrograms per deciliter) as elevated
- Affects children developmentally, physically, mentally
- Health effects include brain damage, nervous system damage, slowed growth, hearing problems, speech issues
- Affects IQ and behavior

How to get tested

- Ask your pediatrician, family doctor, or local health clinic
- Most health insurance covers the cost of lead testing for your child
- Talk with your doctor and insurance company to see if you can get an Environmental Lead Inspection
- UPMC Lead Poisoning Prevention and Education Program serves 15 counties in south central PA

For more information

- EPA.gov/lead
- CDC.gov/nceh/lead/default.htm
- HUD.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes



UPMC complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PARENTS FOR CHILDREN