

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

What is lead poisoning?

Lead poisoning is the most common chronic poisoning and environmental illness in United States. Lead poisoning is an elevation of the lead level in the body. It may cause damage to the brain and nervous system, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, hearing problems, and headaches. Even at low levels elevated blood lead levels have been linked to a decrease in IQ. The Centers for Disease Control has defined an Elevated Blood Lead Level (EBL) as a level exceeding 10 µg/dL.

Where does it come from?

It is most commonly found in lead-based paints used prior to 1978. The deterioration of these paints causes high levels of lead in dust. The deterioration can be chipping and peeling paint or caused by the friction of opening and closing doors and windows.

Who is at risk?

Children under the age of 6 living in homes built before 1978 are most at risk. The Zanesville area is considered a [high risk zip code](#) because of the older housing stock.

How does the lead get inside children's bodies?

The major route of lead ingestion is normal hand to mouth activity, and the placing of objects containing lead dust into the mouth. A small number of children may eat lead-based paint chips. Some lead dust may even be inhaled if children are present when lead-based paint is disturbed.

Who should get tested?

Does your child:

- Have Medicaid including Healthy Family or Healthy Start Insurance?
- Live in a [high risk zip code](#)?
- Live in or regularly visits a residential unit, child day-care facility, or school built before 1950?
- Live in or regularly visits a residential unit built before 1978 with recent ongoing or planned renovation/remodeling?
- Have a sibling or playmate that has or did have lead poisoning?
- Frequently comes in contact with an adult who has a lead-related hobby or occupation (including painters, mechanics, fishermen, or hunters)?

If you answer yes to any of the following questions, your child should be tested for lead.

Where can I have my child tested?

Contact your family physician or the Muskingum Valley Health Center 740-891-9000

What does the health department do if my child has an elevated blood lead level of 10 µg/dL or higher?

The Ohio Department of Health notifies the health department of any children with a lead level of 10 µg/dL or higher. A licensed lead risk assessor is on staff to conduct a public health lead investigation.

A public health lead investigation could include any of the following;

- Comprehensive questionnaire
- On-site investigation for residential unit, child care facility or school
- Educational materials
- Public health lead risk assessment



Lead Hazard Orders will be issued to the property owner for any lead hazards found during the public health lead investigation. The owner is required to have all of the hazards abated by a Lead Abatement Contractor. All Lead Abatement Contractors must be registered through the Ohio Department of Health. A list of currently registered contractors is available [here](#).

http://publicapps.odh.ohio.gov/Envlicense_Reports/reports/External_Report_Criteria.aspx?Program=Lead

What can I do?

- Have your home checked for lead hazards.
- Have your children less than 6 years of age tested for lead.
- Wash children's hand, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children eat healthy, low-fat foods.
- Regularly wet clean floors, window sills, window wells, and porches.
- Cover bare soil with mulch.
- Leave outside shoes at the door.
- Keep painted surfaces in good condition.

Contact the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department for more information at 740-454-9741 x 227 or email annb@zmchd.org.

How can I have my home checked?

The Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department will check a home at no charge if the child has been referred by the Ohio Department of Health. The health department also conducts lead risk assessments upon request for a fee (**see application**).

Other resources and links

Ohio Department of Health

- List of Lead Abatement Contractors
http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/dspc/lp_prev/lp_list1.aspx
- Information for parents, renters and healthcare providers
http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/cfhs/lead_ch/infoparents.aspx

Property Owner Guidelines for Lead Poisoning Prevention

- HUD guidelines
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/enforcement/regulations.cfm>
- Maintenance and Renovation handbook
- Required landlord lead pamphlet