



Stark County Health Department
3951 Convenience Cir. NW, Canton Ohio 44718-2660
Phone: (330) 493-9904 Fax: (330) 493-9920
www.starkhealth.org



Lead Poisoning

New Regulations to protect you and
your family. Could your child be
exposed to lead?

Rules effective April 2004

New Regulations for Control of Lead Poisoning

As of April 7, 2004, physicians in Ohio are required to conduct lead screening tests of children at risk for lead poisoning. Although lead was removed from residential-use paint in 1978, many homes were built before 1978 and have lead paint. This is often a hazard, even if non-lead paint has been applied over top of the lead paint.

Why is Lead a Concern?



Lead poisoning can harm your circulatory system, kidneys, nervous system, bone tissue, and reproductive system. Since children are in a developmental stage, it can cause even more problems in children, such as lower intelligence, hyperactivity, coordination problems, poor hearing, and speech and language problems. In severe cases, lead can even cause comas and death. Lead poisoning usually has no apparent symptoms, until it has already become severe, and much damage has already been done. Because of this, it is very important for children to be tested to find out if they have elevated levels of lead. The seriousness of this disease, and the importance of testing young children has prompted the development of these rules.

What Do the New Regulations do?

The regulations state that “children at risk” must be tested for lead poisoning. The regulation defines *child at risk* as a child who is under the age of six and meets one or more of the following:

- Is Medicaid eligible in accordance with Chapter 5111 of the Revised Code;
- Lives in a high risk zip code (In Stark County, the high risk zip codes are 44601, 44618, 44624, 44646, 44647, 44662, 44667, 44702, 44703, 44704, 44705, 44706, 44707, 44708, 44710, 44714);
- Lives in or regularly visits a residential unit, child day care facility, or school built before 1950;
- Lives in or regularly visits a residential unit built before 1978, that has chipping, dusting, or chalking paint;
- Lives in or regularly visits a residential unit built before 1978 with recent ongoing or planned renovation.
- Has a sibling or playmate that has or did have lead poisoning; or
- Frequently comes in contact with an adult who has a lead-related hobby or occupation.

These regulations, OAC 3701-30-01 through 3701-30-11, also give local health departments the authority to require abatement of lead hazards, found during a public health investigation of a child lead poisoning. Provisions are also made for enforcing such hazard abatement.

What is Required of Physicians?



Primary health care providers of children under six years of age are required to:

1. Determine if the child has had a blood lead screening test. If the child has had a blood lead screening test, determine what age the child was when the test was conducted, and what the test result was.
2. If the child has not had a blood lead screening test, and is between the ages of nine months and seventy two months, determine if the child is at risk of lead poisoning.
3. If the child has not had a blood lead screening test, or the child has had a blood lead screening test, but the results are not available, the physician shall order a blood lead screening test for any child under six years of age if the child is determined to be at risk. It is recommended that a child at risk have a blood lead screening test at the time of the child’s one and two year well child visits.
4. The physician shall order a second blood lead screening test according to the schedule provided in rule 3701-30-03. (A copy of this section of the rules is available from the Stark County Health Department).
5. The physician shall make a good faith effort to obtain results of all blood lead screening tests performed on a child at risk.
6. Nothing in this rule is in-

tended to preclude a physician from other lead testing, not required by this rule.

Physicians should note that investigation of the child's living environment is now required at a blood-lead level of $\geq 10 \mu\text{g}/\text{dl}$. The need for environmental investigation should be referred to the local health department.

Religious Exemption

The provisions of this regulation requiring blood lead screening tests of all children at risk of lead poisoning do not apply if the parents of the child object thereto on the grounds that such screening conflicts with their religious tenets and practices. Such a refusal to consent shall be documented in the child's medical record.

What Do Parents Need to Know?



- Q. What happens if my child is found to be lead poisoned?
- A. The health department will conduct an environmental investigation to determine potential sources of lead. The health department will furnish a report to the parents, which identifies any lead hazards found. A report will also be furnished to the owner of the property investigated. The health department will also provide nursing consultation.
- Q. If lead hazards are found in the child's environment, will the owner of the property be required to remove such haz-

ards?

- A. Yes, if the property owner of the residential unit, child day care facility, or school does not comply with the order to abate the lead hazards, the property will be posted, and the property may no longer be used as a residential unit, day care facility, or school, until the hazard abatement has been completed and passed a clearance examination.
- Q. Can the owner do the lead hazard abatement work her/himself?
- A. No, the lead hazard abatement work must be conducted by a licensed lead abatement contractor.

Lead Poisoning Prevention

If you know or suspect that you live in a home with lead hazards, here are a few tips on how you can attempt to avoid having your child become lead poisoned.

- Clean all deteriorating lead paint surfaces with a household detergent on a regular basis, to keep the level of lead dust to a minimum.
- Before vacuuming carpets, lightly wet mop the carpet, before vacuuming to keep dust from being blown around by the vacuum, or alternatively, use a H.E.P.A. filter equipped vacuum.
- Keep fishing sinkers out of the reach of young children.
- Make sure non-glossy vinyl mini-blinds in your home are the lead-free type.
- Keep art paints, art pencils,

industrial pencils, and commercial-use paints and shellacs out of the reach of young children.

- Do not serve or store acidic drinks in lead crystal containers.
- Do not allow young children to play with cosmetics or talcum powders.
- Do not serve meals on imported or homemade ceramic dishes, as they may not be properly fired to prevent lead from leaching into the food.
- If adults in the household have hobbies or occupations which make use of lead, have that person change clothes in a designated area, before spreading lead throughout the house. Wash those clothes separately.
- Make sure your child has a well balanced diet. Sufficient levels of iron and calcium are very important, and will help minimize the amount of lead the body will absorb.
- Special precautions must be taken when remodeling or renovating a home with lead-based paint. Please call the health department for advice on how to safely renovate a home with lead-based paint.

How Can I Find Out More About Lead?

Please feel free to call the health department for more information. Stark County Health Department has public health nurses and environmental specialists trained in lead poisoning. Contact names and phone numbers are on the backside of this page.

For More Information...Please Call Us!



For questions concerning the effects of lead on the body, blood lead screenings, and how you can prevent lead poisoning, please feel free to call our clinic manager, Debbie Arner, R.N. at 330 493-9914, ext. 115, or Sue Seifert, R.N. at 330 493-9914 ext. 107.

For questions concerning environmental lead issues, such as proper methods of lead hazard control, or lead-safe remodeling practices please feel free to contact one of our lead risk assessors in the Environmental Division at (330) 493-9914.

OR ... Contact The National Lead Information Center:

The National Lead Information Center can send you pamphlets or documents on a variety of lead poisoning subjects:

By Phone: 1 - 800 - 424 - LEAD

By Fax: 1 - 585 - 232 - 3111

By Mail: 422 South Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY, 14620.

OR ... Check out These Links on the Internet:



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

<http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/leadpbed.htm>

The National Center for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/about/program.htm>

The National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/lead.htm>

Lead is Dangerous

Protect your children. Have them tested for lead poisoning before great levels of damage are done. Use preventative practices - Check out your home for lead hazards, and correct any hazards before your children become poisoned.