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Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

The Jackson County Health Department is recognizing National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 22-28th, 2023). According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), [National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week \(NLPPW\)](#) is a call to action to increase lead poisoning prevention awareness activities with the desired result to reduce childhood exposure to lead. Health care providers are encouraged to identify children at risk and discuss lead exposure with their families, as well as recommend and provide blood lead testing and 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. Common sources where lead can be found include paint in homes built prior to 1978, soil, water, imported products and more. A complete list of potential risks can be found at the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Learn About Lead](#) page. 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 damage. The effects of lead poisoning can be permanent and disabling. Children aged 0-6 are at the highest risk as they are going through a crucial growth period, where lead can be easily absorbed into their small bodies. With proper nutrition, good hygiene, and by following simple house cleaning rules, lead exposure can be greatly reduced.

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

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 blood lead levels. 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. The Jackson County Health Department lead case management nurses follow children with elevated blood lead levels and provide assistance and education until they test under 3.5 micrograms/deciliter.

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. 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. The [Michigan Lead Safe Home Program \(LSHP\)](#) may be an option for you to consider if you currently rent or own your home, and if you have a child under the age of 6 or a pregnant person living in the home. An assessment can be completed if you have a child with an elevated blood lead level. If you would like further information or resources on lead poisoning prevention, please reach out to the Jackson County Health Department at (517) 768-2131.

Lead Free KIDS
for a Healthy Future

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

October 22-28, 2023

-  **Get the Facts**
-  **Get Your Child Tested**
-  **Get Your Home Tested**