

Childhood Lead Newsletter

June 2023
volume 2

The Idaho Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (Idaho CLPPP) is dedicated to working with medical providers, parents, community partners, and early care and education (ECE)/childcare providers to increase awareness of lead exposure and potential risks they pose to young children.

There is no safe level of lead!

We welcome feedback and look forward to working with you to ensure that children have access to screening for lead exposures and treatment for elevated blood lead.

Volume 2 contains:

- Idaho's Lead Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations
- Recall Notifications
- "New" Idaho CLPPP webpage
- Additional Happenings
- Choose Safe Places Program, Including free water testing and Free Radon Testing for ECE Facilities



Idaho Lead Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations

The Idaho CLPPP in collaboration with the Idaho Lead Advisory Committee developed Idaho's first Lead Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations. The document provides clear blood lead testing guidance to pediatric health care providers emphasizing the importance of blood lead testing for children less than 6 years of age. Children exposed to lead are vulnerable to long-term health and developmental effects, including intellectual and behavioral deficits. Conducting lead risk assessments and blood lead testing is vital to identify lead-exposed children and to connect them to medical, environmental, and social services to improve health outcomes in Idaho.

The Idaho Lead Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations will be available in June 2023 and will be available on our website.

Call to Action for Providers to:

- Perform the **required** blood lead test at 12 and 24 months, or between 24 months and 21 years of age if they have not been previously tested, for children covered by Medicaid insurance.
- Perform a blood lead test at 12 and 24 months for children not eligible for Medicaid insurance.
- Conduct a lead risk assessment via the Idaho Lead Risk Assessment Questionnaire on all well child visits from 6 months through 6 years of age. A positive assessment can identify risk of lead exposure within a child's environment and allow for blood lead testing, environmental exposure assessment, and source removal to occur.



Educate. Test. Prevent.



Call to Action for Parents to:

- **Be aware!** There is no safe level of lead. Even low levels of lead in the blood have been shown to cause learning difficulties, behavioral problems, damage to the brain and nervous system, or hearing and speech problems. This can cause lower IQ, decreased ability to pay attention, and underperformance in school.
- **Know** that some children are at greater risk for lead exposure from paint, water, soil, some imported items such as traditional medicines and herbs, and from certain jobs and hobbies (through parents and caregivers).
- **Talk to your doctor** about potential lead exposures in your child's environment to determine if a blood lead test is needed. Many children with lead poisoning do not show any obvious signs of being sick and a blood lead test is the best way to find out if lead in their blood.

Lead Product Recalls

Lead can be found in consumer products, such as toys, jewelry, furniture, or clothes that are imported from other countries. Products containing lead are concerns for all ages, especially for small children as they tend to put their hands, toys, or other objects into their mouth and can be a source

of lead exposure. To stay up to date with product recalls that may be a safety concern, including lead poisoning hazards, refer to the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website: [Recalls | CPSC.gov](https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls).

Idaho CLPPP Webpage

healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/lead-poisoning. In December 2022, the Environmental Health Program updated their website to provide more information and resources on lead and lead exposures. The website features lead factsheets in both English and Spanish on various topics including:

- Lead Facts
- Lead in Soil
- Lead Safe Recreation at Historical Mining Sites
- Happy, Healthy Lead Free Me! – a children's board book on lead poisoning and prevention

Most resources are available to download or to order for free at Idaho Health Tools: healthtools.dhw.idaho.gov/collections/other-environmental-health.

The program will continue to add resources as they are developed, including GIS Mapping for high-risk areas for lead exposure, the Idaho Risk Assessment and Blood Lead Testing Recommendations, and Medical Management Guides for various lead topics. Visit the website for updates.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Projects

Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (NW PEHSU) Lead Awareness Trainings for Medical Providers

In October 2022, CLPPP contracted with NW PEHSU to promote pediatric lead screening by creating training for the education clinicians and other allied health professionals in Idaho about the importance of lead poisoning prevention, identifications through screening and testing, case management, and referral to appropriate services. The trainings are Continuing Medical Education (CME)-approved and are available for conferences, meetings, ground rounds, or other venues. CME on-demand lead training modules will also be developed and be available on the EHP website.

Media Campaign

Idaho CLPPP is launching a media campaign including advertisements on television, the internet, magazines, billboards, and social media to provide awareness of lead exposures and importance of blood lead testing for people in Idaho, especially households with children under the age of 6. The goal of the media campaign is to raise awareness of potential lead exposures and for parents and caregivers to talk with their healthcare provider if blood lead testing is needed.

Lead Trainings

The Idaho CLPPP is developing a lead training presentation to provide education to parents and caregivers of children, especially under the age of 6. Subjects include:

- Sources of lead exposure
- Impact that lead can have on the health of humans
- Effective cleaning techniques to reduce household lead dust
- How personal hygiene and nutrition may limit absorption of lead and reduce exposure to lead in children
- The importance of hiring certified lead professionals when remodeling a home or building



The presentation can be tailored to fit the needs of the audience. The Idaho CLPPP is available to provide the training directly or we can train the trainer allowing the person to deliver the presentation within their community.

Choose Safe Places

Free lead water sampling

Free radon test

Protect your early care and education (ECE)/childcare facility from environmental hazards by participating in the Idaho Choose Safe Places (CSP) program. The mission of Idaho's CSP program is to promote the safe siting of early care and education programs and to reduce the risk of children being exposed to dangerous chemicals during their care. Use the [Partner Factsheet](#) as a step-by-step guide to identify potential environmental health risks at your facility and

find resources specific to lead, radon, water testing, and other sources of contamination.

[DEQ](#) offers free sample analysis for lead in public schools and childcare facilities that are not regulated by public water systems. Tests are conducted through the Idaho Bureau of Labs (IBL), certified by EPA's Drinking Water Office. Funds from this program will be available through June 30, 2023. Follow the [3Ts](#) for reducing lead in drinking water. For more information visit www.csp.dhw.idaho.gov or e-mail csp@dhw.idaho.gov.

Additionally, The Idaho Environmental Health Program is offering free radon tests to ECE/childcare owners to test their facility for radon. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer. Contact the EHP at 800-455-8647 or visit www.radonidaho.org for more information.

Contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 800-455-8647 or bceh@dhw.idaho.gov for more information about the CLPPP including :

- Opportunities for NW PEHSU to provide training for clinicians and other allied health professionals in Idaho about the importance of lead poisoning prevention
- Partnerships for outreach opportunities to provide awareness around lead exposures and blood lead testing
- Request email notifications via mailing list when new lead resources are available or on products that are recalled due to lead hazards



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