



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
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Commissioner

Lead Poisoning Prevention
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Dear Family Child Care Provider:

Family child care providers play an important role in helping to prevent childhood lead poisoning in New York City. Lead poisoning is a serious public health problem and can cause learning and behavior problems in young children. The only way to know if a child has lead poisoning is by testing the blood for lead. New York State regulations require that health care providers test the blood lead levels of all children at ages 1 and 2. Health care providers must also test older children if they are at risk for lead poisoning. Peeling lead paint is the most common cause of lead poisoning and it is important to protect children from lead paint hazards.

We would like to remind family child care providers of their responsibilities under the New York State regulations which address lead poisoning prevention.

NYS regulations require:

- Providers to try to obtain a copy of a blood lead test for each child under age 6. If the child does not have a blood lead test, you may not exclude the child from the day care site, but must give the parent information on lead poisoning prevention, and refer the parent to the child's health care provider for a blood lead test. Parents can call 311 for help from DOHMH in arranging for blood lead testing, finding a healthcare provider or getting health insurance. Blood lead tests are covered by public and private health insurance.

Family child care providers can help prevent childhood lead poisoning by reminding parents and caregivers to:

- Have their children tested for lead poisoning at age 1 and 2, as required by law.
- Report peeling paint to their landlord if they live in rental units. If the landlord does not fix the peeling paint or if repair work is being done unsafely, they may call 311.
- Keep children away from peeling paint, and repair and renovation work.
- Reduce exposure to lead dust by washing floors and window sills often using a damp mop or damp cloth, and by washing children's hands, toys, and pacifiers often, especially before they eat or sleep.

- Use cold tap water, not hot tap water, when preparing baby formula or baby cereal, drinking and cooking. Let the cold water run for a few minutes before you use it.

If you or the parents of children enrolled in your child care program would like additional information about childhood lead poisoning prevention and blood lead testing, or to order more copies of the enclosed brochures for distribution to parents, please call 212-226-5323 or 311. You may also visit our website at www.nyc.gov/lead.

Sincerely,



Frank Cresciullo, M.P.A.
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Child Care



Deborah Nagin, M.P.H.
Director
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Enclosures:

- *Fix Lead Paint Hazards: What Every Landlord Must Do and Every Tenant Should Know*
- *Reduzca los peligros a causa de la pintura con plomo: Lo que deben hacer los propietarios y todo inquilino debe saber*
- *Peeling Lead Paint Turns into Poisonous Dust: 5 Simple Ways to Protect Your Child*
- *La pintura con plomo descascarada se convierte en polvo venenoso: 5 Pasos sencillos para proteger a su niño*