

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2017
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FACT SHEET: LEAD-BASED PAINT PROGRAM INFORMATION

NYCHA spokesperson, Jean Weinberg: “NYCHA began addressing these issues more than a year ago in connection with the investigation by the US Attorney’s Office for the Southern District. Since the Housing Authority learned it wasn’t in full compliance with lead-based paint regulations and reporting, it has taken steps to address the underlying issues. We owe our residents better, and we’ll take today’s recommendations into careful consideration.”

Lead-Based Paint at NYCHA

Lead-based paint was banned from residential housing in New York City in 1960 and prior to its being banned was not widely applied in NYCHA housing because it was prohibitively expensive. Where lead-based paint does exist within NYCHA buildings, it is primarily from the original primer, now under many layers of paint, on select components such as radiators, door frames, pipes and ceramic fixtures.

Because of these factors, paint hazards are not likely to be found, and children are not likely to be exposed to lead in NYCHA buildings. However, even a single child living in public housing with elevated levels of lead is one too many.

Key Facts:

- According to the City’s Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, lead poisoning in the City is at historic lows and children living in public housing are less likely to be exposed to lead than those living in private housing.
- If the paint is in good shape, the lead-based paint is typically not a hazard.
- Most of the lead paint found at NYCHA is in the primer, not on the surface, and is on items like radiators and door frames, not on walls.
- Younger children are most at-risk for lead exposure from swallowing paint chips and dust through normal hand-to-mouth activity—NYCHA has prioritized these households, where there may be the presence of lead-based paint.

Federal Lead-Based Paint Regulations and Compliance

NYCHA is fundamentally changing the way we do business and that includes our lead based paint program. Our compliance to date has been uncoordinated and incomplete – that’s unacceptable. We’re moving forward to aggressively bring our lead-based paint program into compliance.

NYCHA’s Lead Efforts

We're bringing our lead-based paint program into full compliance by:

- Continuing to conduct visual inspections of apartments housing children under the age of 6 where the presence of lead-based paint has not been ruled out. A visual inspection is completed to look for deteriorated paint, visible dust or debris, or failure of any previously installed lead-based paint hazard reduction measure.
- Finalizing a detailed plan with a contractor to inspect the remaining units in which lead-based paint has not been ruled out.
- Remediating any lead-based paint hazards that are identified in those apartments. Remediation can include repainting, specialized cleaning, as well as paint removal, enclosure, or component replacement.
- Reviewing and enhancing NYCHA's current lead-based paint procedures.
- Reviewing NYCHA's lead-based paint risk assessment program. A follow-up risk assessment is an on-site investigation combining a visual inspection with collection of environmental samples to determine if a previously implemented lead-based paint hazard control measure is still effective and if the dwelling remains lead-safe.

Additionally, as an extra precaution, we will offer every apartment we inspect this year a full apartment painting, even if no hazard was identified.

DOHMH Facts About Lead In New York City

- Lead poisoning in New York City is at historic lows.
- The number of children in NYC with lead poisoning has declined 69 percent since 2005.
- 80% of NYC children are tested at least once before their 3rd birthday and more than 90% of NYC children are tested by age 6.

DOHMH Healthy Homes Program

- The Health Department, through its Healthy Homes Program, has developed a comprehensive and proactive approach to childhood lead poisoning prevention and control, which includes:
 - Lead hazard reduction in homes and communities
 - Education and outreach to families and health care providers to promote prevention and early detection
 - Care coordination for children with lead poisoning and pregnant women with lead poisoning and their newborns
 - Environmental investigation and enforcement
 - Surveillance and research
- In 2015, DOHMH:
 - Provided care coordination services to 831 children with lead poisoning and 46 pregnant women with lead poisoning and their newborns.
 - Inspected more than 1,200 homes and issued violations for lead-based paint hazards in more than 500 of these homes.
 - Conducted over 1000 inspections triggered by complaints of unsafe work practices which resulted in more than 300 issued violations.

- Reduced community exposure to lead contaminated products, removing 2165 illegal products in 7 NYC stores.
- Distributed over 186,000 pieces of educational materials and promotional items and participated in 485 educational event

Additional Information for NYCHA Residents

- NYCHA completed inspections in apartments with children under 6 in 2016 and will again in 2017, to ensure that these households are free of lead-based paint hazards.
- This October, NYCHA began inspecting apartments that may have lead-based paint to address any issues and our work will target the apartments of families with young children first. If your apartment will be inspected, we will reach out to schedule an inspection.
- Please contact the Customer Contact Center (CCC) at 718-707-7771 to report peeling paint concerns. Thank you for your partnership in building a safe and healthy community for this generation and the next.