



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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TEL: (212) 306-3000 • <http://nyc.gov/nycha>

SHOLA OLATOYE
CHAIR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

July 26, 2017

Dear Residents,

As you may know, NYCHA has been fully cooperating with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York's investigation into conditions in public housing in coordination with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In connection with this investigation, the Authority has learned that our compliance on certain lead-based paint regulations is inadequate and incomplete. This is simply unacceptable.

You can be assured that the health and safety of public housing residents and employees is our top priority. NYCHA is taking meaningful steps to promptly get into compliance, which includes the way the Authority evaluates and addresses lead-based paint hazards.

Some important facts to keep in mind:

- 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.
- 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 fall, NYCHA will begin 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.

While NYC's health statistics indicate the risk in public housing is relatively low, one child exposed to lead is one too many.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shola Olatoye".

Shola Olatoye
NYCHA Chair & CEO