



Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



Steve Hall, RS, MS
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Medical Director

PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets
From: Central Michigan District Health Department
RE: CMDHD Promoting Lead Poisoning Prevention Week
Release Date: October 24, 2025

CMDHD Promotes Lead Poisoning Prevention Week: October 19 - 25

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) is recognizing **Lead Poisoning Prevention Week** by raising awareness about the dangers of lead exposure and encouraging families to take preventive action. Michigan requires blood lead testing of all young children at specified ages and with selected lead exposure risk factors. Learn about the requirements at michigan.gov/mileadsafe/learn/blood-lead-testing.

Lead screenings are available through primary care providers. Screenings are covered by most insurances and are free for children with Medicaid. If elevated levels are detected, a CMDHD nurse case manager will work with the family to identify the source of exposure and provide steps to reduce lead in the child's environment.

"Lead is harmful to health, especially for young children and pregnant people," said Jennifer Wessel, CMDHD Personal and Family Health Supervisor. "There is no safe level of lead in the blood, which is why early screening and intervention are so important."

Lead is toxic, especially in young children. When inhaled or swallowed, it can damage the brain and nervous system, leading to learning problems, behavioral issues, slow growth, and difficulties with hearing or speech. Children under the age of six are particularly vulnerable because their bodies absorb lead more easily and they are more likely to put contaminated objects into their mouths.

Lead poisoning is preventable. The key is to keep children away from lead. Common sources of exposure include deteriorated lead-based paint used in homes built before 1978, where children may swallow or breathe in lead dust or chew on surfaces coated with lead paint. Renovation and repair projects in older homes can also increase exposure. Drinking water may contain [lead from pipes, faucets, and fixtures](#), and soil can be contaminated from past industrial or human activities. Lead can also be found in imported or older products such as toys, painted furniture, jewelry, pottery, cosmetics, remedies, and certain collectibles. Children may be at

Please visit us online at www.cmdhd.org.

greater risk if they live in poorly maintained housing, if adults in the home work with lead, or if their families are recent immigrants, refugees, or international adoptees. Some children and pregnant people may also develop pica, a craving for non-food items like soil or clay, which may contain lead.

Learn about our program by visiting <https://www.cmdhd.org/lead>. More information about lead exposure and prevention is available through the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

To request an interview, please submit a [Media Interview Request Form](#).