

LA PORTE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parent,

To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the La Porte County Health Department is recognizing October as Lead Awareness Month.

Lead poisoning is a silent menace which often does not manifest itself until the damage is done. The disease can permanently and irreversibly damage the developing brains and other organs of young children. Serious effects can include lowered intelligence, behavior disorder, and slowed physical development. Once poisoned, a young child's chances for academic, social and occupational success could be significantly diminished.

Deteriorated lead-based paint in the child's home environment is the primary source of lead poisoning. Young children, who are most vulnerable to the effects of lead poisoning, pick up lead dust from the floor or window sills and ingest it through hand to mouth activity. In recent years, other sources of lead poisoning have come to light. Consumer products, such as children's toys or inexpensive jewelry, often imported from countries where there are few restrictions on the use of lead, have resulted in some notorious cases of lead poisoning. Still, any child living in a house built prior to 1978 is at the greatest risk of lead poisoning. The older the home the more likely there is lead paint.

The La Porte County Health Department offers free lead testing. We are able to test children 6 months of age through 6 years of age. The test is a simple finger stick to collect a small amount of blood. You will receive results of your child's test in 2 to 3 weeks. We utilize the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratory to run the tests. If you are interested in having your child's lead level tested, please contact Nursing Services at the LaPorte County Health Department to make an appointment.

326-6808 ext. 2200 or 874-5611 ext. 7780

Thank You,

La Porte County Health Department
Nursing Services

Mission Statement:

"To engage and partner in a collaborative and responsive effort with the community and local organizations with respect to the diversity of the community to better serve present and future generations."