



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

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To: All Media

From: Sarah M. Kile, Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

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National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is October 21–27, 2012

Lead Poisoning is preventable! Get your home tested and to have your child tested please contact your local branch office of the Central Michigan District Health Department or your family physician.

Half a million children living in the United States have high blood lead levels that may cause harm to their health, estimates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Children can also be exposed to lead from other places like tainted drinking water, take-home exposures from a parent's job, and lead in the soil. Even though lead may be in our house, water and ground, lead poisoning is preventable!

To increase awareness of childhood lead poisoning prevention, the Central Michigan District Health Department, along with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, the CDC, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is taking part in National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week October 21–27. This year's theme is "Lead-Free Kids for a Healthy Future." For more information visit www.cdc/lead.

Parents can reduce a child's contact to lead in many ways. Here are some simple things you can do to help protect your family:

1. **Get your home tested.** Before you buy an older home, ask for a lead inspection. You can also test the home you live in; home testing kits are also available at your local hardware or building supply store. Michelle Patton, the director of environmental health at CMDHD warns that "the only way to be sure that your home is safe is to have it tested".

2. **Get your child tested.** The Central Michigan District Health Department provides blood-lead testing to children with Medicaid who are enrolled on the Michigan's WIC Supplemental Food and Nutrition Education Program. Blood-lead testing is also done in many doctors' offices. For more information about testing, contact your family doctor.

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 LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook.

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