



JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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**Jefferson County Public Health Service Observes
National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 23-29, 2022**

Watertown, NY~ Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS) is pleased to recognize National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 23-29, 2022.

National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The purpose is to raise local awareness about the danger of lead exposure and poisoning and educate parents on how to reduce exposure to lead in their environment, prevent its serious health effects, and learn about the importance of testing children for lead. “Lead poisoning prevention is a team effort”, said Faith Lustik, JCPHS Lead Coordinator. “Parents, medical providers, landlords, schools, municipalities, contractors, and more all play a role in protecting the health of children in our community”.

About 3.6 million American households have children under 6 years of age who live in homes with lead exposure hazards. According to the CDC, about 500,000 American children between ages of 1 and 5 years have blood lead levels greater than or equal to the level of blood reference value, the level at which CDC recommends public health actions.

Lead can be found inside and outside the home, including in the water that travels through lead pipes or in the soil around the house. However, the most common source of exposure is from lead-based paint, which was used in many homes built before 1978. Adults and children can get lead into their bodies by breathing in the lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs or painting) or by swallowing lead dust that settles in food, food preparation surfaces, floors, windowsills, and other places, or eating paint chips or soil that contain lead.

Children can also become exposed to lead dust from adults’ jobs or hobbies, and from some metal toys or toys painted with lead-based paint. Children are not exposed equally to lead, nor suffer its consequences in the same way. Signs and symptoms of lead poisoning usually don’t appear until dangerous levels have accumulated, therefore it is important to screen children through age 6 and test all children for lead at ages 1 and 2 years to reduce exposure to lead.

For more information on how to protect your family from lead poisoning, please visit [www.https://jcphs.org](https://jcphs.org).

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