



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI  
DIRECTOR

July 2009

Dear Colleague:

While significant progress has been made over the past two years, lead poisoning remains the number one environmental health hazard for children with Michigan ranking among the top six states for childhood lead poisoning.

Your efforts have proven successful with 12,237 more young children being tested in 2008 than were tested in 2006. Even with this success, we must continue to strive for higher numbers of children tested. Our goal is to have children tested when they are less than 2 years of age as those children are at the greatest risk from the damaging effects of lead poisoning. Of the 23 children receiving chelation therapy - administration of medication and chelating agents to remove heavy metals from the body - in 2008, 11 of them were between the ages of one and two years, reinforcing the need for early and repeat testing of very young children.

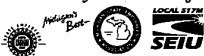
The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission has determined that testing of high-risk children remains one of its top priorities. While testing of children for elevated blood lead levels continues to increase, much work remains to assure that *all* high-risk children receive appropriate testing. We are asking for your assistance in achieving this goal. We encourage you to examine your practice and identify ways in which your office procedures can be improved to make certain there are no missed opportunities for testing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS:

- Measure blood lead concentrations in all children residing in one of the 14 target communities identified by the state health department, including all other children deemed to be at risk (see enclosed Statewide Screening/Testing Plan).
- Measure blood lead concentrations in all children covered by the Medicaid program at age one and two years or at least once between the ages of 3-6 years if not previously tested (see enclosed Statewide Screening/Testing Plan). This is a federal requirement.
- Provide anticipatory guidance about the prevention of lead poisoning to parents of all infants and toddlers. Parents should also be aware that children six months to three years of age have normal mouthing behaviors, and homes, workplaces and/or hobbies should be assessed for potential lead hazards.

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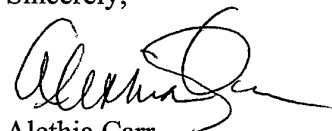


- Inquire about lead hazards in housing and childcare settings where children spend significant periods of time. If hazards are found, assistance should be sought from health departments or housing experts to address the lead hazards safely. Parents should not attempt to clear lead hazards themselves. Additional information regarding identification of lead hazards and abatement is available at [www.michigan.gov/leadsafe](http://www.michigan.gov/leadsafe).
- Recognize that children aged one and two years are most vulnerable as this is the period when mouthing behaviors are most common and when they are playing on the floor where lead dust collects. This is also the age when effects of lead poisoning can be the most damaging to a child's rapidly developing central nervous system.
- Recognize children in special risk groups and measure blood lead concentrations in these children. Special risk groups include immigrants, migrants, foreign-born adoptees, refugees and foster-care children.
- Keep current with the work of the national Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention and any other relevant resources including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Michigan Department of Community Health Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. Provide medical management for children with acute and chronic lead poisoning based on the Advisory Committee guidelines.
- Provide families with information about grants for housing remediation available through the Michigan Department of Community Health and many communities across the state including the cities of Detroit, Grand Rapids, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Jackson, Lansing, and Muskegon.

Please be advised that documents related to the work of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Control Commission can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/leadsafe](http://www.michigan.gov/leadsafe).

We look forward to working with you to increase testing and eliminate childhood lead poisoning in our state. Together we can accomplish our goals.

Sincerely,



Alethia Carr  
Chair  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention  
and Control Commission



Greg Holzman, MD, MPH  
Chief Medical Executive

Enclosure: Statewide Screening/Testing Plan

